

DEC. NO. 27

10c

STRANGE ADVENTURES

BECAUSE WE CAN'T
TELL WHICH ONE OF YOU
IS THE **REAL**
CAPTAIN COMET.
WE MUST DESTROY
YOU BOTH!

I'M THE
REAL
CAPTAIN
COMET! HE'S
MY PERFECT
DUPLICATE!

NO! HE'S LYING!
HE'S MY
DUPLICATE--
I AM
CAPTAIN
COMET!





Uncle Bernie's FUN SHOP

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• HE'S OVER 19" TALL!
• MOVES HIS MOUTH,
ARMS AND LEGS!
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DOORS ON PAVEMENT • OVERALL SOLID
METAL BODY

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CAPTAIN COMET

INTERPLANETARY TRICKERY SPIRITED VIGILANT CAPTAIN COMET AWAY FROM EARTH... TO A LONELY LITTLE GLOBE WHERE NOTHING COULD LIVE... AND WHERE, INCREDIBLY, HE WAS FORCED TO BATTLE HIMSELF FOR A CHANCE AT SURVIVAL WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED...

The COUNTERFEIT CAPTAIN COMET!

NOT EVEN YOU CAN ADAPT TO THIS DEADLY WORLD, CAPTAIN COMET!

AM I SEEING THINGS? THAT MAN LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE ME--IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A MIRROR!



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STRANGE ADVENTURES

ONE DAY AS ADAM BLAKE, LIBRARIAN, READS HIS MORNING PAPER...

WHAT A STRANGE ADVERTISEMENT! BUT WAIT A SECOND--!



THESE ARE EXACTLY CAPTAIN COMET'S PHYSICAL MEASUREMENTS -- AND OF COURSE MINE, TOO -- DOWN TO A FRACTION OF AN INCH! IT'S UNCANNY!



THERE'S NO NAME GIVEN... ONLY A STREET ADDRESS... ACROSS TOWN! WHO COULD HAVE PUT THIS AD IN THE PAPER?



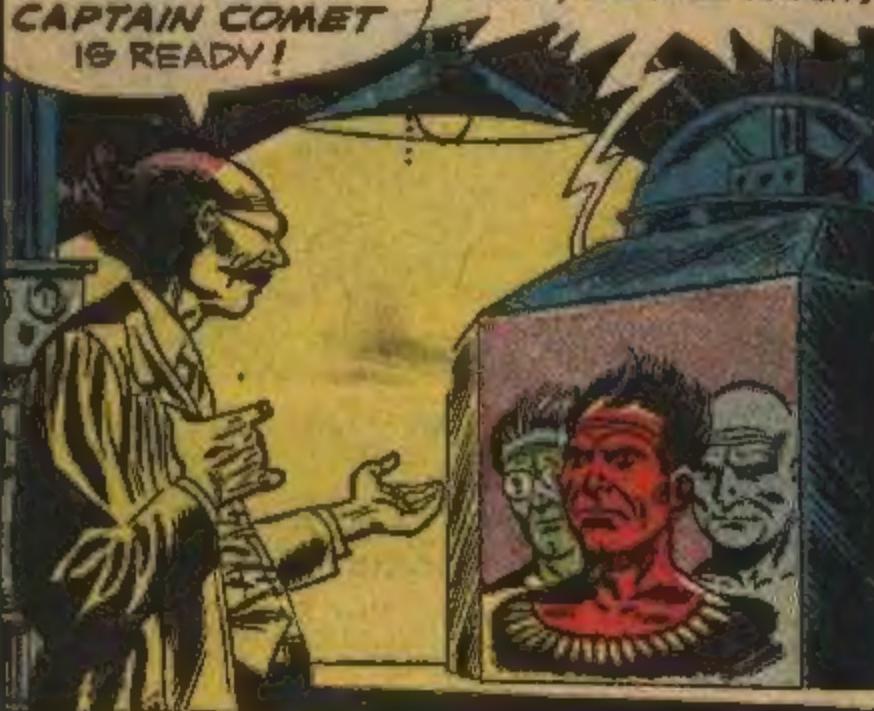
YES, INDEED, WHO? FOR A GLIMPSE INTO THE STARTLING TRUTH BEHIND THE MYSTERIOUS ADVERTISEMENT, LET US PEEK AT THIS MOMENT INTO A CERTAIN, ISOLATED HOUSE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDWEST CITY..



... WHERE, BEHIND STEEL SHUTTERS, AN AMAZING CONVERSATION IS TAKING PLACE...

MASTERS, OUR TRAP FOR THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN COMET IS READY!

TEST THE DUPLICATOR, ZDRIN! WE WILL WATCH!



SECONDS LATER... AS A HOUSE CAT IS PLACED ON A SHINING METAL SLAB...

THE DIFFICULT PART, MASTERS-- WAS TO INJECT THE ELEMENT OF EVIL... OF HATRED... INTO THE DUPLICATE! OBSERVE NOW... AS I PULL THIS SWITCH...





STRANGE ADVENTURES



SUDDENLY... A SECOND CAT APPEARS, THE EXACT COUNTERPART OF THE FIRST...



THAT NOON... AS MILD-APPEARING ADAM BLAKE APPROACHES THE ISOLATED DWELLING AT 221 GROVE AVENUE...

I MUST FIND OUT WHO PUT THAT AD IN THE PAPERS-- BUT APPARENTLY I'VE GOT TO WAIT IN LINE ! DOZENS OF MEN HERE ALREADY !



SWIFTLY, ONE BY ONE, THE APPLICANTS ARE EXAMINED AND REJECTED...

SORRY ! YOUR FOREARM IS A THIRD OF AN INCH TOO SMALL ! YOU WON'T DO !



THEN... AS ADAM, THE LAST MAN IN LINE, IS FINALLY MEASURED...

THIS IS HE!

STEP INTO THE NEXT ROOM, PLEASE, MR. BLAKE ! YOU ARE A VERY LUCKY YOUNG MAN ! YOU HAVE PRECISELY THE SAME PHYSICAL PROPORTIONS OF CAPTAIN COMET !



I AM PROFESSOR Z.D. RIN ! WITH THIS NEW INVENTION OF MINE, I CAN GIVE YOU THE SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH AND ABILITIES OF CAPTAIN COMET ! ARE YOU WILLING TO TRY IT ?

ER-- WHY NOT ?

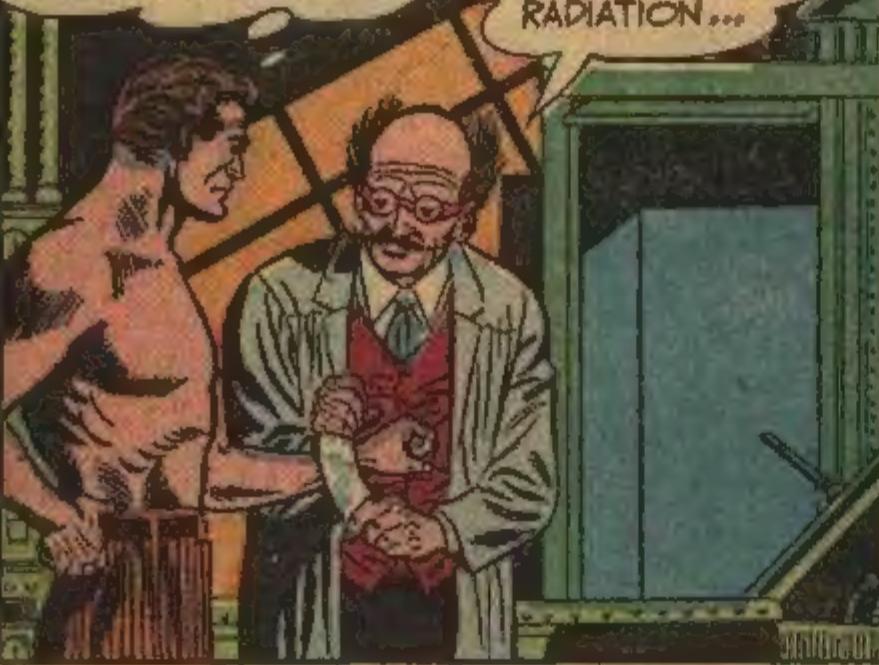




STRANGE ADVENTURES

WHETHER THIS WORKS OR NOT, I'LL HAVE COMET'S POWERS--BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT!

THIS METAL WRIST-BAND WILL PROTECT YOU AGAINST ANY HARM FROM THE RADIATION...



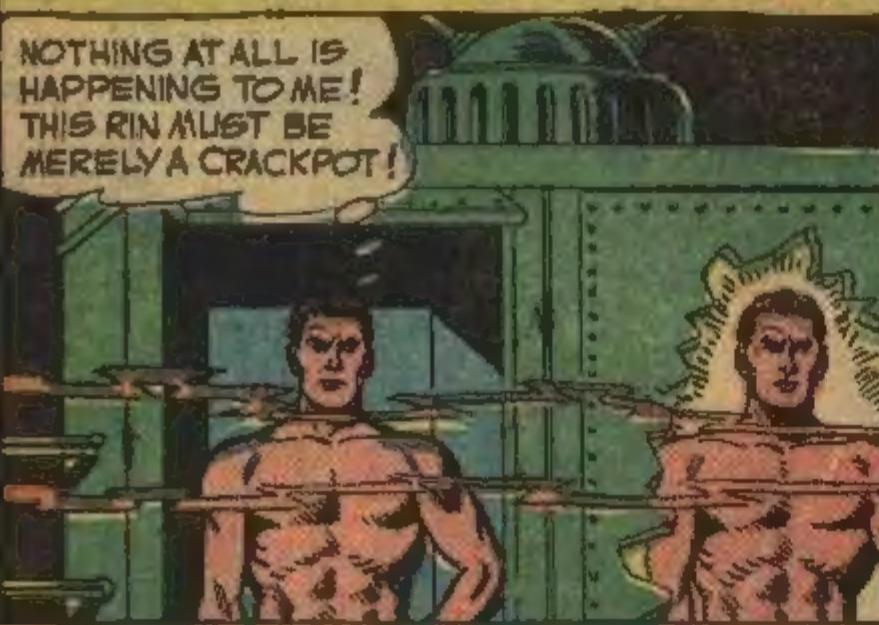
CURIOS! THIS METAL IS UNFAMILIAR TO ME!

READY?
I'M
TURNING
IT ON!



THE NEXT SECOND, A CASCADE OF UNIQUE ENERGY POURS THROUGH THE MACHINE, CREATING A PERFECT FLESH-AND-BLOOD DOUBLE OF CAPTAIN COMET IN THE NEXT COMPARTMENT...

NOTHING AT ALL IS HAPPENING TO ME!
THIS RIN MUST BE MERELY A CRACKPOT!



MOMENTS AFTER... AS ADAM DEPARTS...

...WASTED MY TIME...

THERE HE GOES! YOUR EXACT DUPLICATE, ADAM BLAKE! YOU ARE ALIKE HIM IN EVERY RESPECT--EXCEPT THAT HE IS FOR LAW AND YOU ARE FOR EVIL!



EITHER HE OR I--MUST DIE!

IT WILL BE HE--IF YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!
PUT ON THIS UNIFORM...



AS THE SINISTER COUNTERFEIT OF THE MILD-MANNERED LIBRARIAN OBEYS HIS STRANGE MASTER...

I AM ADAM BLAKE... THEREFORE I AM CAPTAIN COMET, TOO!

YES! BUT YOUR ONE PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO DESTROY THE REAL CAPTAIN COMET-- WHOM YOU HATE!
LISTEN--





STRANGE ADVENTURES



WHAT EVENING... IN PROFESSOR ZACKRO'S HOME, THE FRIEND AND SOLE CONFIDANT OF THE MAN OF DESTINY...

HELLO, COMET! I'M GLAD YOU'RE EARLY TONIGHT! YOU CAN HELP ME SOLVE A LITTLE PROBLEM--

DON'T BOTHER ME... ZACKRO!

I'LL BE BUSY IN THE... COMETEER'S SHED! DON'T DISTURB ME!

C-CAN THAT BE CAPTAIN COMET? I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, AND YET--

AS A HORRID SUSPICION SEIZES THE MAN OF SCIENCE...

COMET WOULD NEVER TREAT ME LIKE THAT! IT MUST BE AN IMPOSTOR! BUT THERE'S ONE WAY I CAN FIND OUT--QUICKLY! THIS GAS...



...IT'S NOT DEADLY! AND IF THAT IS CAPTAIN COMET--HE WON'T EVEN NOTICE IT! BUT IF IT'S ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD, IT WILL RENDER HIM UNCONSCIOUS IN A FEW SECONDS!



UNAFFECTED, THE FIGURE IN THE WORKSHOP CONTINUES TO MOVE ABOUT IN THE INVIS-IBLE, ODORLESS VAPOR...

IT IS COMET! I--I GUESS HE'S CHANGED! THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME BETWEEN US--BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?



AS THE PROFESSOR VANISHES SADLY INTO HIS HOUSE, ANOTHER FIGURE APPEARS IN THE TWILIGHT...

WHO'S IN MY WORK-SHOP? IT COULDN'T BE ZACKRO--HE NEVER GOES NEAR THE COMETEER WHEN I'M NOT--HUUH??





STRANGE ADVENTURES



GREAT GALAXIES! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE METAL BAND STILL ON MY WRIST, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL US APART!



FROZEN FAST IN HIS SEAT BY THE FRIGHTFUL ACCELERATION, THE MAN OF DESTINY SURVEYS HIS FELLOW-PASSENGER...

MY FACE -- AND MY MIND! IT'S-- IMPOSSIBLE!!

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE, MY DEAR CAPTAIN COMET! NOT EVEN YOUR DESTRUCTION-- ON THE PLANET OF DEATH!



CALLING UPON HIS UNIQUE MENTAL FORCE, CAPTAIN COMET HURLS A MIGHTY THUNDER-BOLT AT HIS EVIL COUNTERPART-- ONLY TO FIND ...

HIS POWER IS EQUAL TO MINE! I CAN'T TOUCH HIM!

MY MASTER WAS RIGHT! NEITHER OF US CAN HURT EACH OTHER-- DIRECTLY!



AS THE MAN OF 100,000 A.D. LEAPS SWIFTLY INTO HIS SHIP, ITS STRANGE OCCUPANT PRESSES A BUTTON-- HELD IN A CONCEALED HAND...



AND AN INSTANT LATER... THE COMETEER ARCHES SKYWARD WITH MOUNTING, ROARING SPEED...

WE'VE TAKEN OFF! CAN'T MOVE...!



THE... PLANET OF DEATH?

NOTHING CAN PREVENT US FROM ARRIVING THERE! I HAVE SET THE CONTROLS OF THIS SHIP SO NO MORTAL HAND CAN CHANGE THEM UNTIL WE LAND!



A SHORT WHILE LATER... UNDER THE ULTRA-SWIFT, SPECTRUM-DRIVE VELOCITY OF THE COMETEER...

WE'RE COMING DOWN! THIS... MUST BE THE PLANET OF DEATH!

NOTHING CAN LIVE HERE FOR MORE THAN A FEW MOMENTS, CAPTAIN COMET-- AS YOU'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT!





STRANGE ADVENTURES

AS THE SHIP SETTLES ON THE WILD-LOOKING,
FORBIDDING TERRAIN...

HE RIGGED AN AUTO-MATIC EJECTING DEVICE--TO TRICK ME! I'M GETTING THROWN CLEAR--BUT I MANAGED TO GRAB HIS ARM--SO HE'S COMING WITH ME!!

AHHHH!

LOCKED IN EQUAL GRIPS OF STEEL,
THE FALSE AND THE TRUE CAPTAIN COMET ROLL OVER AND OVER ON THE WEIRD, LIFELESS LANDSCAPE...



THEN... SUDDENLY... ONE OF THE FIGURES RISES AND STAGGERS TOWARD THE COMETEER... WHILE THE OTHER LIES STILL! BUT WHICH IS THE DEFEATED, WHICH THE VICTOR?



BACK ON EARTH, AS AN EXULTANT Z.D.RINTM MAKES A REPORT TO HIS FAR-OFF SUPERIORS.

BY THIS TIME OUR DUPLICATE HAS ALREADY DESTROYED THE REAL CAPTAIN COMET... ON THE PLANET OF DEATH!

CONTACT US AS SOON AS HE RETURNS,
ZDRIN...



...AND WE SHALL BEGIN THE ONSLAUGHT ON EARTH!

WAIT!

HE'S HERE NOW--HUH??

IT WAS A VERY CUNNING PLOT YOU HATCHED, ZDRIN...

IN A FIST OF IRON, THE LITTLE MAN IS LIFTED UP AS IF HE WERE A TOY...

THE EXTRA-ORDINARY RADIATION ON THE "PLANET OF DEATH" DESTROYED YOUR DUPLICATE OF ME IN SECONDS! IT WOULD HAVE FINISHED ME TOO, BUT FOR ONE THING...



STRANGE ADVENTURES

THIS ODD METAL WRIST BAND--WHICH YOU PUT ON MY WRIST SO THAT YOU COULD TELL ME FROM THE DUPLICATE!--PROTECTED ME FROM THE FATAL RAYS! IT WAS A NATURAL INSULATION AGAINST THE MENACE!

(GULP!) THE ONE POSSIBILITY I DIDN'T FORESEE!



LATER... ON A FAR-OFF WORLD OF ANOTHER GALAXY...

I'M SORRY TO REPORT, MASTERS, THAT--ER--CAPTAIN COMET IS INVINCIBLE!

WE MUST SELECT ANOTHER WORLD TO ATTACK--SOME PLACE THAT DOESN'T HAVE CAPTAIN COMET TO DEFEND IT!



MEANWHILE... BACK IN MIDWEST CITY...

YES, ZDRIN KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY, PROFESSOR--BUT I DOUBT IF HE'LL EVER AGAIN SET FOOT ON EARTH, SO IT HARDLY MATTERS!

WHAT DOES MATTER IS THAT YOU'RE ALIVE AND SAFE, CAPTAIN COMET!



THIS MEMENTO, ZACKRO, WILL REMIND ME THAT I MUST ALWAYS BE ON MY GUARD AGAINST PERIL TO EARTH!

AND I THOUGHT HE HAD CHANGED...



I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT CAPTAIN COMET WILL NEVER CHANGE! THAT HE WILL ALWAYS BE BRAVE, KIND AND FEARLESS--



THE END

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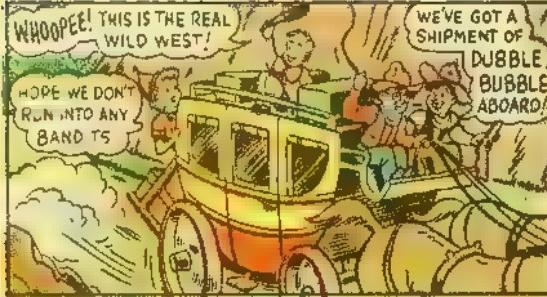
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SURE, BUT LET'S
GET GOING TO
THAT MOVIE NOW!

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IS THE LEADER IN
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UNICEF
REMEMBER, IT MEANS
HELP FOR CHILDREN
FROM THE UNITED
NATIONS!

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STRANGE ADVENTURES



The Farmers From SPACE!

STARTLED ASTRONOMERS HAD DETECTED A STRANGE, DESTRUCTIVE PLANT GROWING ON MARS! WITH HORROR THEY WATCHED AS IT SPEEDILY DEVOURED THE PLANET-- UNTIL THEY SUDDENLY REALIZED THE SAME MALIGNANT GROWTH HAD APPEARED ON THIS WORLD TOO! WAS EARTH EARMARKED FOR DESTRUCTION NEXT?



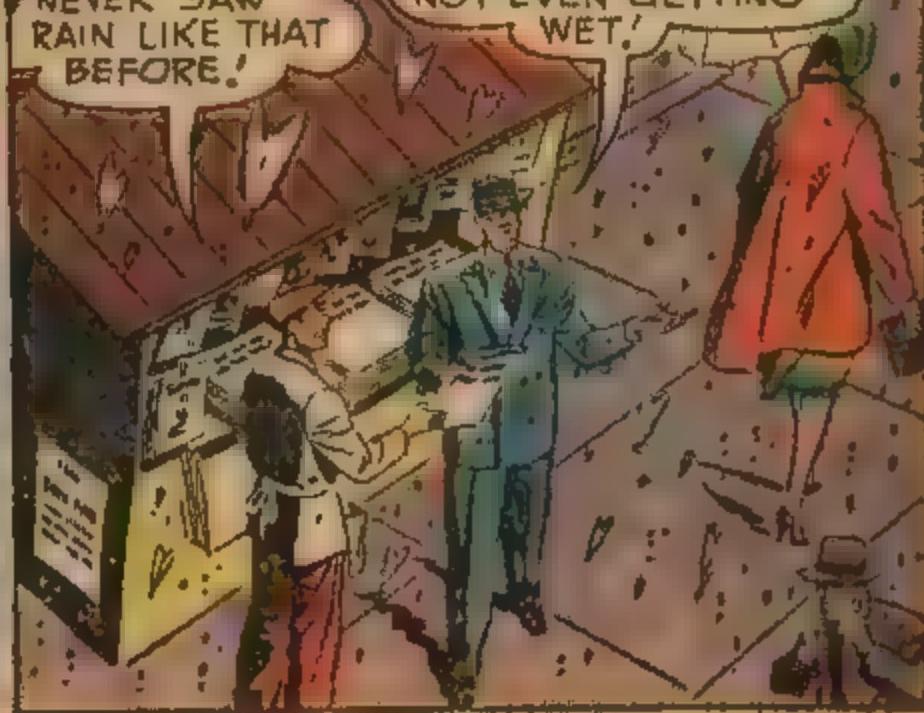
FAR ABOVE RADAR-RANGE A STRANGE MISSILE ENTERS EARTH'S IONOSPHERE -- AND BURSTS, SPREADING ITS CARGO ON A PORTION OF THE PLANET BELOW ...



SOON AFTER, A PECULIAR RAIN FALLS ON A GREAT AMERICAN CITY AND ITS SUBURBS...

NEVER SAW RAIN LIKE THAT BEFORE!

FUNNY PART IS I'M NOT EVEN GETTING WET!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



MEANWHILE, AN EVEN STRANGER PHENOMENON CAUSES DR. WESLEY SAMPSON, ACE PLANT BIOLOGIST, TO BE SUMMONED TO A NEARBY ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY...

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WANT A PLANT BIOLOGIST TO LOOK AT MARS.

YOU WILL WHEN YOU LOOK THROUGH THE TELESCOPE.



RETURNING TO HIS SUBURBAN HOME, DR. SAMPSON IS MET BY HIS YOUNG DAUGHTER MARY...

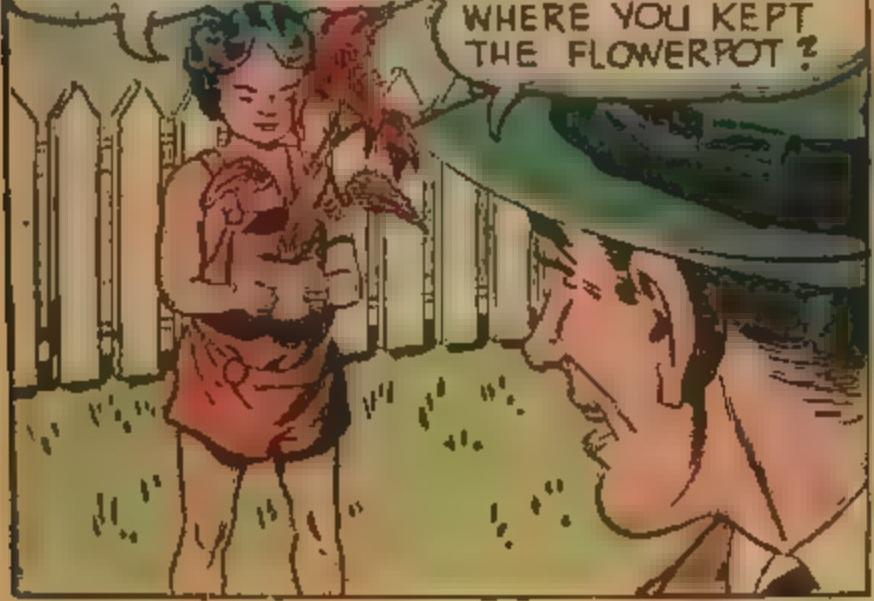
LOOK AT THE NEW PLANT I FOUND IN THE YARD, DADDY!

A RED-COLORED PLANT! HOW ODD!



I DON'T LIKE THE WAY IT LOOKS, SO I'M GOING TO MAKE IT GREEN LIKE OTHER PLANTS!

I'M SURE YOU WILL, MARY--BUT FIRST, WILL YOU PLEASE SHOW ME WHERE YOU KEPT THE FLOWERPOT?



THAT DARK RED SPOT ON MARS HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY. IT OCCURRED TO ME IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF PLANT GROWTH.

NOT IF IT'S COLORED RED! MARTIAN PLANT LIFE IS GREEN LIKE OURS!



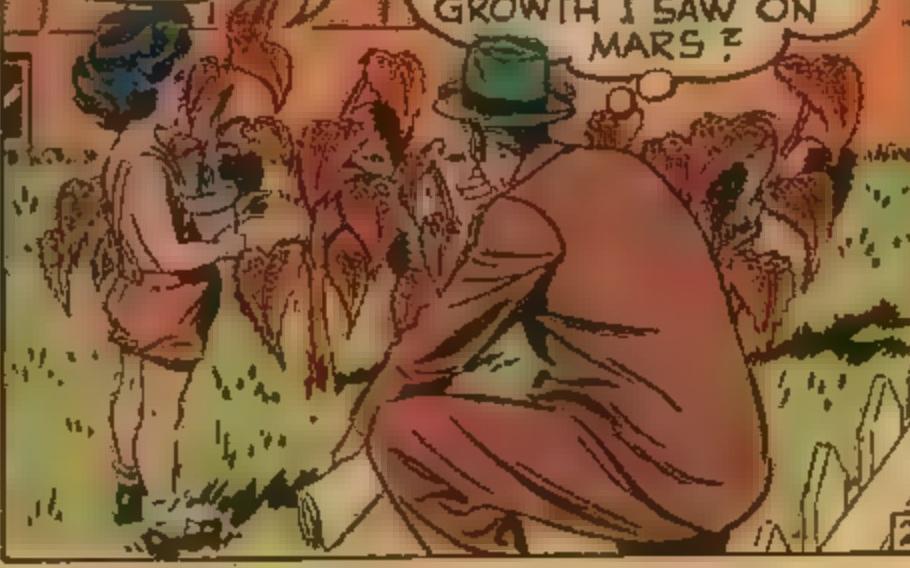
THAT'S THE WAY IT GREW, DADDY! AND I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET--I DIDN'T EVEN PLANT ANY SEEDS IN THE FLOWERPOT!



DISTURBED, DR. SAMPSON FOLLOWS MARY TO THE BACK OF THE HOUSE...

SEE--THERE'S A LOT OF THESE RED PLANTS GROWING HERE!

GOOD GOSH! I WONDER IF THIS HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THE RED PLANT GROWTH I SAW ON MARS?





STRANGE ADVENTURES



MEANWHILE, IN THE NEARBY CITY...

BEATS ME, CAPTAIN!
THE PLANTS JUST
SEEMED TO GROW
UNDER MY FEET

WHO EVER HEARD OF
PLANTS GROWING OUT
OF SIDEWALKS AND
BUILDINGS? I BETTER
GET THE COMMISSIONER
ON THE PHONE!

LS.
NG CO.

ARMING THEMSELVES WITH EVERY CUTTING
INSTRUMENT THEY CAN, THE CITY'S INHABIT-
ANTS CHOP AWAY AT THE MONSTROUS
GROWTHS...

IT'S NO USE--THEY GROW
FASTER THAN WE CAN
DESTROY THEM!

EVER OUTWARD FROM THE CITY
AREA THE PLANT-PLAQUE
SPREADS...

LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE STUCK
HERE!

MOST PECULIAR
PLANTS I EVER SAW!
WONDER WHERE
THEY CAME FROM
ANYHOW?

IN THE WHITE HOUSE, THE SAME URGENT
QUESTION IS UNDER DISCUSSION!

MR. PRESIDENT, MARS IS SUFFERING
A SIMILAR BLIGHT! THE
WHOLE PLANET IS COVERED
WITH GIANT GROWTHS! IN
MY OPINION THEY CAME
HERE FROM SOME
OTHER WORLD!

THE PLANTS ARE
DEFINITELY ALIEN.
MR. PRESIDENT, AND
THERE'S NOTHING WE
CAN DO TO STOP THEM
FROM ENLARGING THEIR
AREA OF GROWTH!

BUT THEY MUST
BE DESTROYED—
OR THEY'LL
DESTROY US!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



IN THE DESPERATE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GIANT PLANTS, EVERY KNOWN WEAPON IS USED...

THIS POISON SPRAY WILL WIPE THEM OUT!

BUT POISON FAILS AND THE PLANTS FIGHT BACK!

JUMP--IT'S GOT US!

CRACK!

BULLDOZER ATTEMPTS TO UPROOT THE PLANTS PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL...

WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE TRAPPED.

FLAME-THROWERS ARE HURLED INTO THE STRUGGLE...

THESE THINGS WON'T BURN.

KEEP TRYING--IT'S ALL WE CAN DO.

EVEN MARS SEEMS TO BE WAGING A LOSING BATTLE AGAINST THE MALIGNANT PLANTS...

THE PLANTS HAVE COVERED ALL MARS--EVEN THE CANALS AND POLAR ICE-CAPS HAVE VANISHED!

UNLESS WE CHECK THESE PLANTS, EARTH WILL BE CHOKED TO DEATH -- LIKE MARS!

TAKE A LOOK--THROUGH THE TELESCOPE--SOMETHING EVEN WORSE MAY HAPPEN!

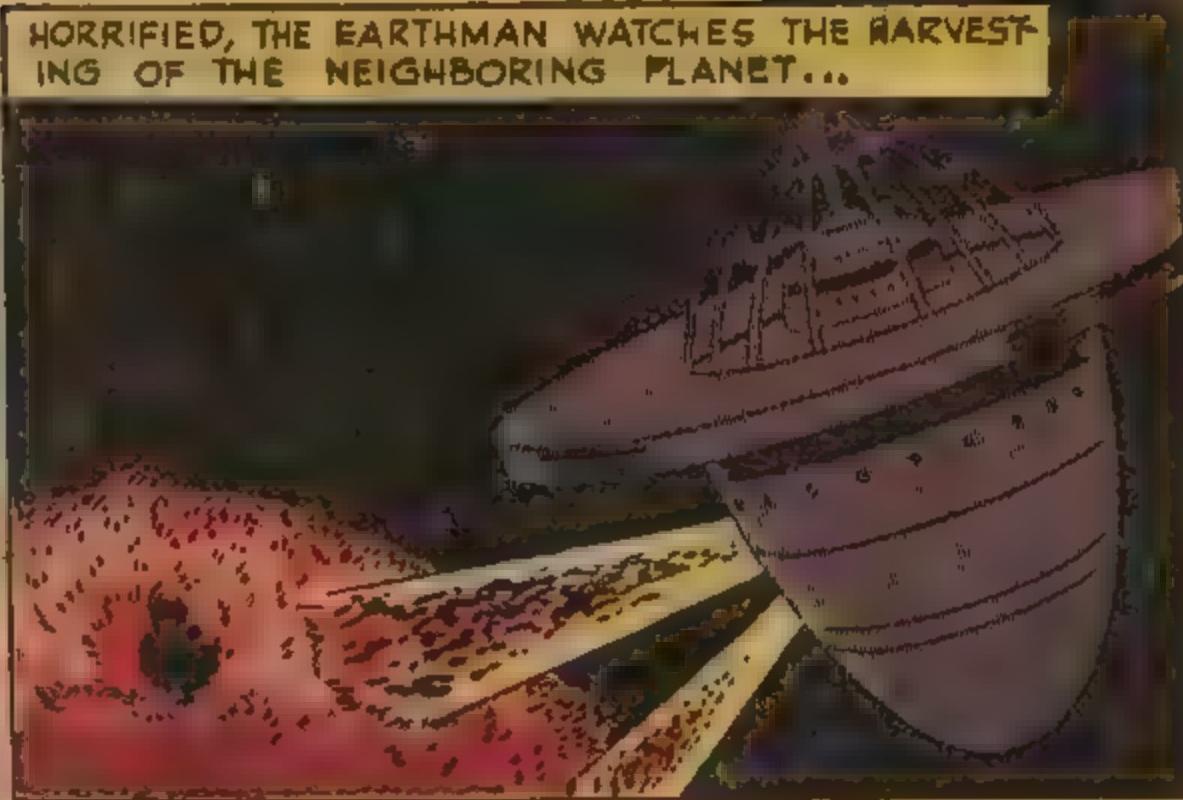




STRANGE ADVENTURES

AN IMMENSE SPACE-SHIP
OVER MARS --AND IT'S
HARVESTING THE MARTIAN
PLANTS WITH A TRACTOR-
BEAM!

HORRIFIED, THE EARTHMAN WATCHES THE HARVEST-
ING OF THE NEIGHBORING PLANET...



THE SEEDS WERE PLANTED
BY FARMERS FROM SPACE!
THEY ARE USING OUR PLANETS
AS GIANT FARMLANDS FOR
THEIR HARVESTS!

AND EARTH
MAY BE RIPE
FOR PICKING
NEXT!

OVERWHELMED BY A SENSE OF DOOM,
DR. SAMPSON RETURNS HOME...

HI, HONEY--STILL
PLAYING WITH
FLOWERS?

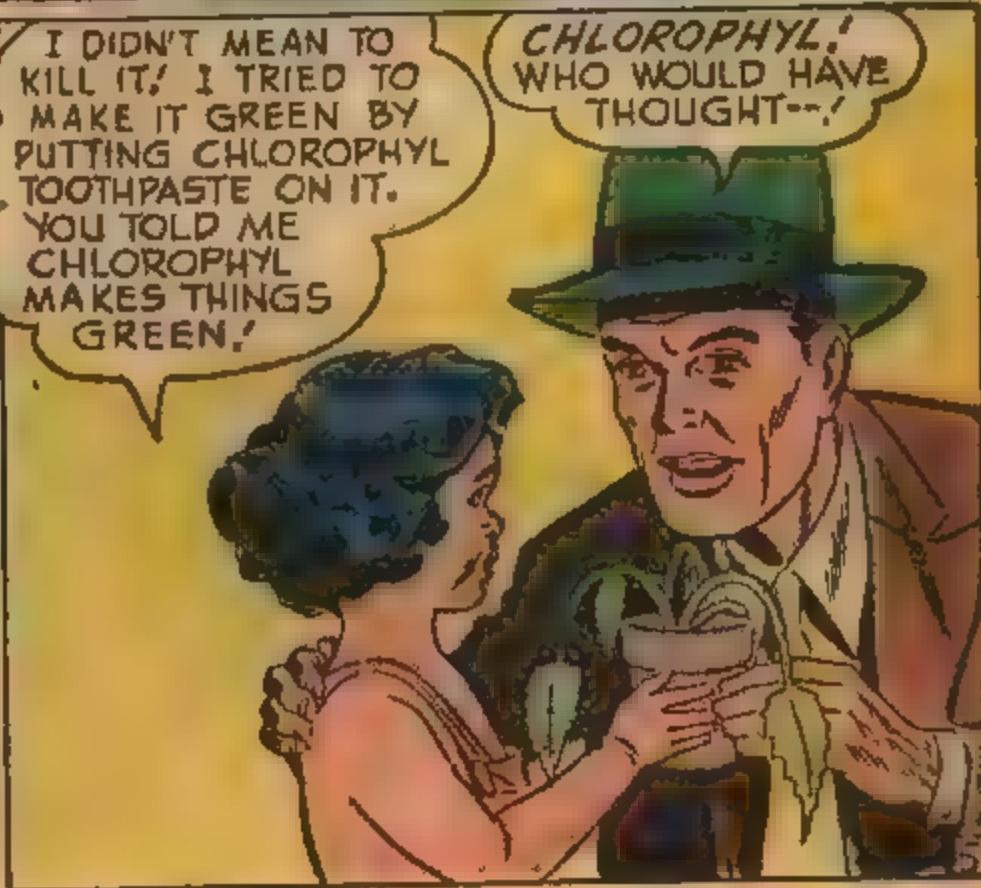
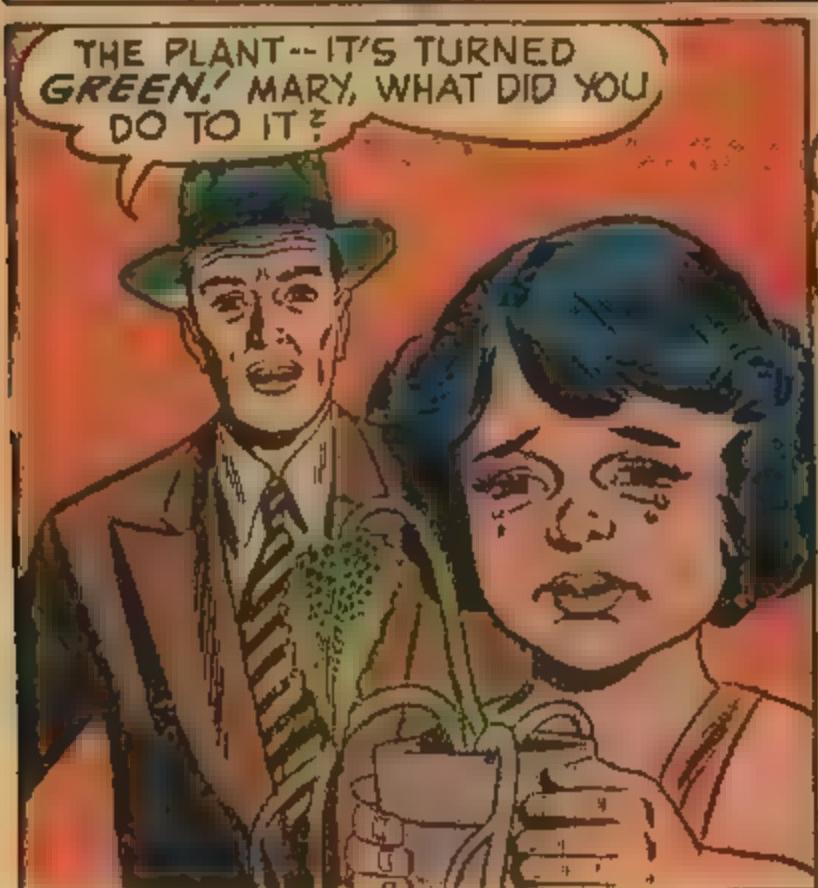
YES, DADDY, BUT
MY PLANT DIED.



THE PLANT--IT'S TURNED
GREEN! MARY, WHAT DID YOU
DO TO IT?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO
KILL IT! I TRIED TO
MAKE IT GREEN BY
PUTTING CHLOROPHYL
TOOTHPASTE ON IT.
YOU TOLD ME
CHLOROPHYL
MAKES THINGS
GREEN!

CHLOROPHYL!
WHO WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT--!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



SWIFTLY, UNDER DR. SAMPSON'S DIRECTION, CHLOROPHYL BOMBS ARE PREPARED...

DO YOU THINK YOUR BOMBS WILL BE EFFECTIVE, DR. SAMPSON?

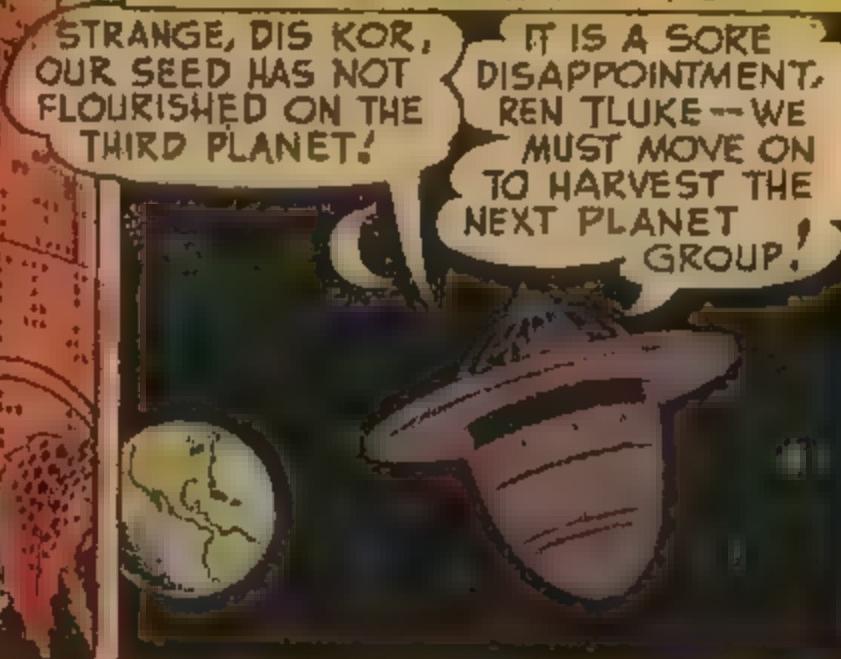
IF THEY'RE NOT, EARTH IS DOOMED!

AMAZINGLY, THE ALIEN PLANTS WITHER AND DIE WHEN DUSTED WITH EARTH'S LIFE-GIVING CHLOROPHYL...



IMMEDIATELY AN ALL-OUT DRIVE IS LAUNCHED TO KILL THE CROP BEFORE THE HARVESTER FROM SPACE ARRIVES...

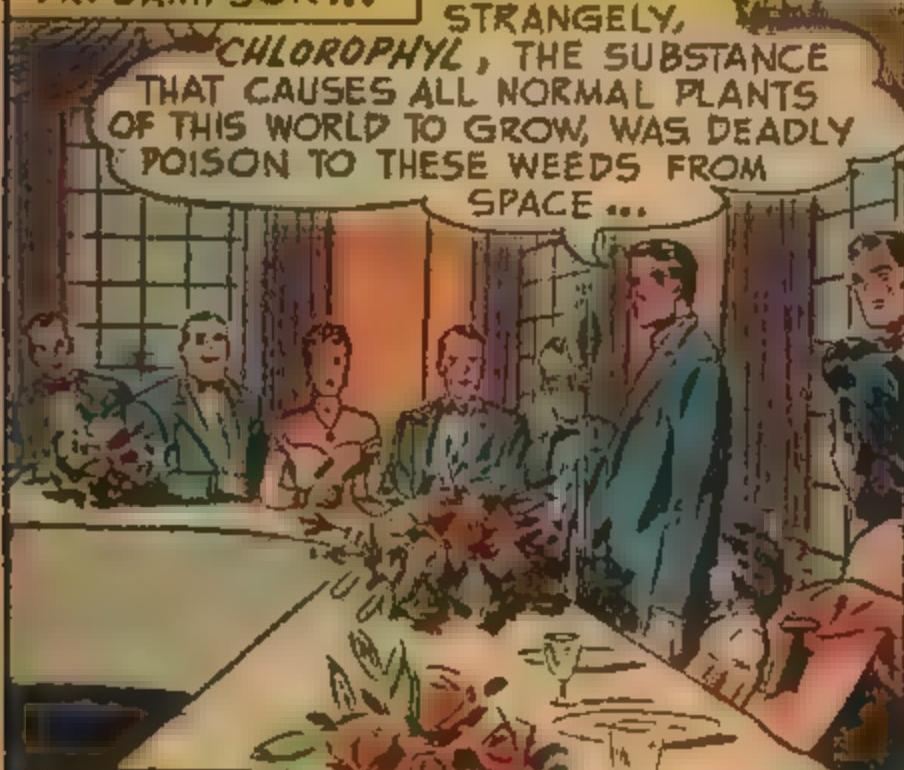
SOON AFTER, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND MOON...



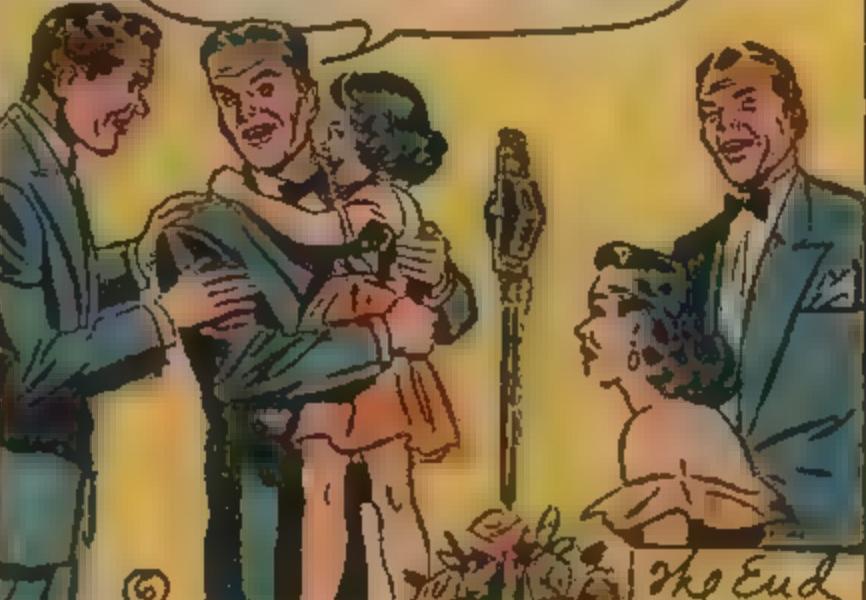
LATER, AT A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF DR. SAMPSON...

STRANGELY,

CHLOROPHYL, THE SUBSTANCE THAT CAUSES ALL NORMAL PLANTS OF THIS WORLD TO GROW, WAS DEADLY POISON TO THESE WEEDS FROM SPACE...

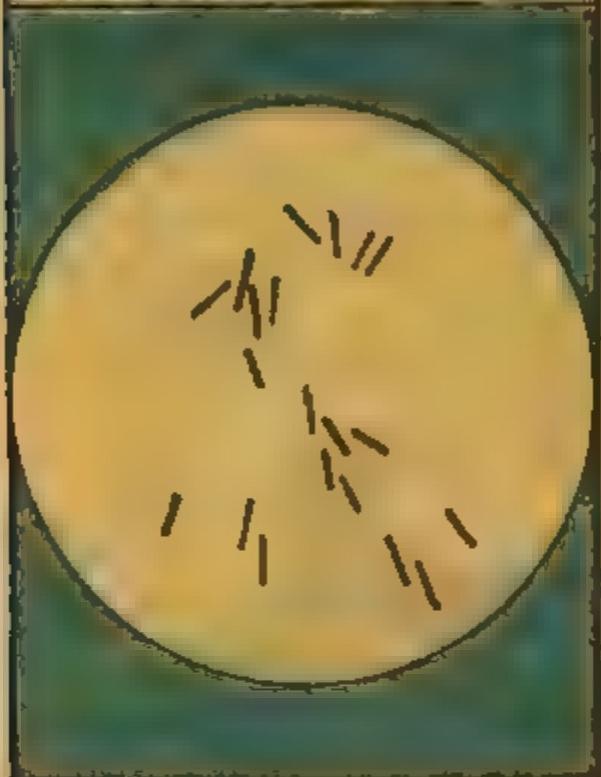


... AND IT WAS THIS YOUNG PLANT BIOLOGIST WHO STUMBLED ON THE ANSWER WHILE WE ADULTS WERE GETTING FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH! TO MY DAUGHTER MARY MUST GO CREDIT FOR SAVING THE EARTH!



SCIENTIFIC WORD ORIGINS...

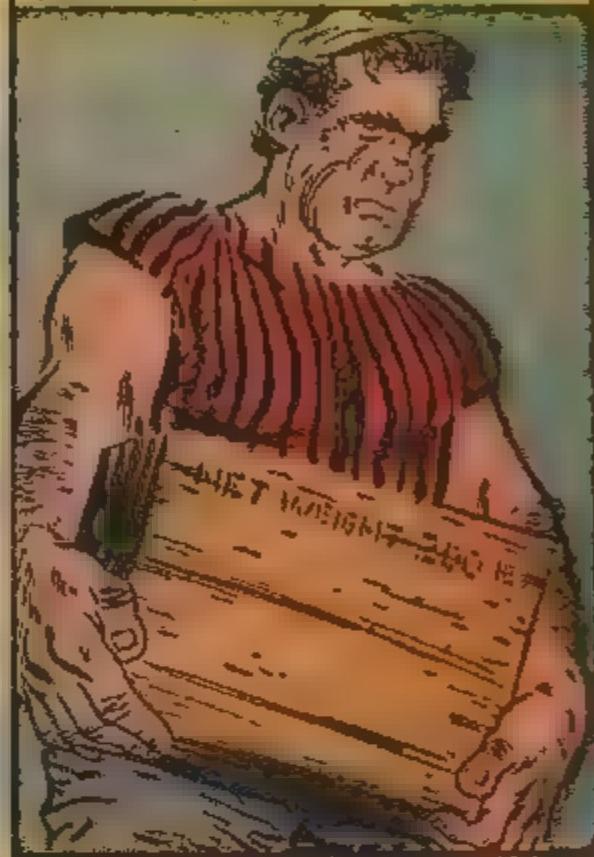
THE TINY STAFF-SHAPED OBJECTS THAT WERE FIRST OBSERVED THROUGH A MICROSCOPE WERE CALLED BACTERIA, FROM THE GREEK WORD BAKTERION -- MEANING LITTLE STAFF OR STICK...



BECAUSE SWARMS OF STARS IN DISTANT SPACE APPEAR AS VAGUE, CLOUDY PATCHES OF LIGHT, THEY ARE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS NEBULA, THE LATIN TERM FOR CLOUD...



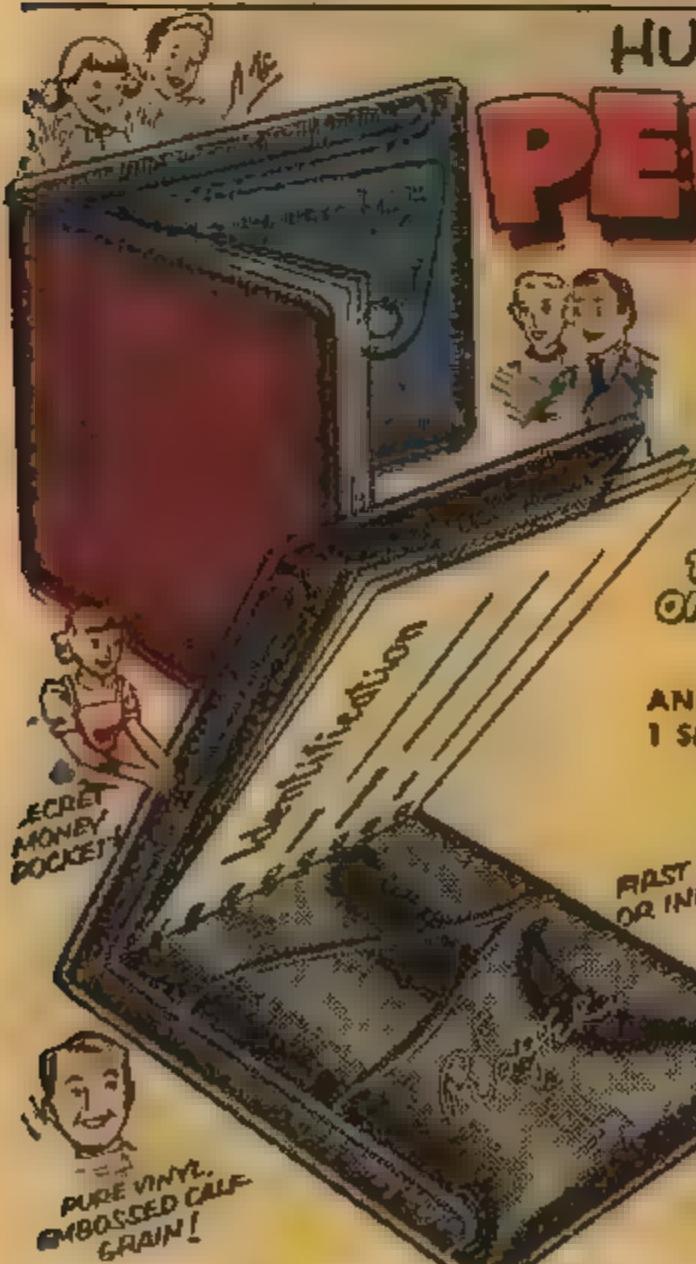
THE MYSTERIOUS FORCE THAT SEEMED TO TUG ON EVERY OBJECT ON EARTH WAS GIVEN THE WORD GRAVITY, ADAPTED FROM THE LATIN GRAVIS, MEANING HEAVY...



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STRANGE ADVENTURES



**ALLOTTING 100 POINTS FOR EACH ATTRIBUTE,
THE CHIMPANZEE SCORED 925-- THE
HIGHEST RATING ...**



**SHARING THIRD PLACE -- WITH 725 POINTS
WERE THE LION, GRIZZLY BEAR, AND
BEAVER.**



IN THE RATING OF THE COMPARATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY OF WILD ANIMALS, TEN SPECIFIC ATTRIBUTES ARE JUDGED-- HEREDITARY KNOWLEDGE, RECEPTIVE FACULTIES, ORIGINAL THOUGHT, MEMORY, REASON, RECEPΤIVITY IN TRAINING, EFFICIENCY IN EXECUTION, NERVOUS ENERGY, KEENNESS OF SENSES, AND USE OF THE VOICE...

NEXT HIGHEST-- 850 POINTS -- IN THE WILD
ANIMAL CLASS WERE THE ORANGUTAN
AND THE ELEPHANT, WHILE THE HORSE AND
DOG TIED AMONG DOMESTIC ANIMALS ...



OTHER ANIMALS SCORING MORE THAN 500 POINTS WERE THE RED FOX AND BROWN BEAR (EACH 650), THE GRAY WOLF (625), THE TIGER AND WHITE-TAILED DEER (575), THE GORILLA AND COYOTE (EACH 500);...



STRANGE ADVENTURES



THE CASE OF THE TWICE-TOLD TALE!

AUTHOR GEORGE MITCHELL BECAME A CELEBRITY OVERNIGHT WHEN HE WROTE A GREAT HISTORICAL NOVEL...UNTIL SOMEONE DISCOVERED THAT IT WAS A WORD-FOR-WORD STEAL OF A BOOK WRITTEN BY ANOTHER WRITER MORE THAN 100 YEARS AGO! BUT MITCHELL KNEW THAT HE HAD NOT STOLEN THE STORY, THAT EVERY DOTTED I AND CROSSED T, WERE HIS OWN! THE ENSUING INVESTIGATION LED TO ONE OF THE MOST SENSATIONAL REVELATIONS OF ALL TIMES!

FINALLY FINISHED--
MY FIRST NOVEL!
I'LL RUSH IT TO THE
PUBLISHER AT
ONCE!

NOT SO FAST, MY FRIEND--
I WROTE THAT BOOK
FIRST--MORE THAN A
CENTURY
AGO!

THE BOOK HAD TAKEN ME OVER FIVE YEARS TO WRITE, BUT, BELIEVE ME, IT WAS WORTH IT, WHEN...

MR. MITCHELL,
I HAVE GRAND
NEWS FOR YOU--
YOUR BOOK HAS
BEEN SELECTED
AS THE NOVEL OF
THE MONTH!

AT LAST!

FOLLOWED DAYS OF FEVERISH ACTIVITY.

TO THE GREATEST
HISTORICAL
NOVELIST OF
OUR TIME,
GEORGE
MITCHELL!

BUT, SUDDENLY, AT THE VERY HEIGHT
OF MY GLORY...

FLASH! MR. AND MRS.
AMERICA, I HAVE JUST DISCOVERED
THAT GEORGE MITCHELL'S BOOK ABOUT
THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, "THE
TRAITOR", WAS BRAZENLY COPIED
FROM THIS VOLUME I HOLD IN
MY HAND--WRITTEN
IN 1780!

IMPOSSIBLE!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



OF COURSE, I KNEW IT MUST BE A MISTAKE,
AND LEFT AT ONCE FOR MY PUBLISHER'S
OFFICE, BUT THERE ...

SURELY, MR. BLAKE,
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE
I'D DO A THING LIKE
THAT!

THIS IS A COPY OF
THE 1780 BOOK, MITCHELL!
YOUR NOVEL IS AN EXACT
DUPLICATE OF IT-- EVERY
SENTENCE IN IT! NOW,
YOU WORD THIEF --
GET OUT!

IN THE DISMAL DAYS THAT FOLLOWED...

DAILY PIC
1780 NOVEL STOLEN
TODAY AUTHOR STEALS
NOVEL!
THE TIMES - Her
TIMES
AUTHOR STEAL
NOVEL WRITTEN
BY RICHARD
MILLS IN 1780

BUT FINALLY,
MY DESPAIR
GAVE WAY TO
ANGER-- I
KNEW I HAD
WRITTEN THE
BOOK-- I HAD
SWEATED OUT
EVERY PAGE!
WHO-- WHO WAS
THIS AUTHOR
FROM THE PAST
WHO HAD BRAND-
ED ME A THIEF
AND A PLAGIARIST?
I-I HAD TO FIND
OUT!

THEN AFTER
HOURS OF
RESEARCH
AT THE
PUBLIC
LIBRARY...

AH-- HERE IT IS! "RICHARD MILLS
(1750-1810), INVENTOR AND AUTHOR!"
AND IT ALSO GIVES HIS HOME --
STONY CREEK HOUSE, SALEM! ...
I-- I'LL GO THERE -- MAYBE I CAN
DISCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS
INSANE CO-INCIDENCE!

WEEKS LATER, I FOUND IT-- A
BROKEN-DOWN STONE HOUSE,
UNINHABITED, AND BOARDED UP.

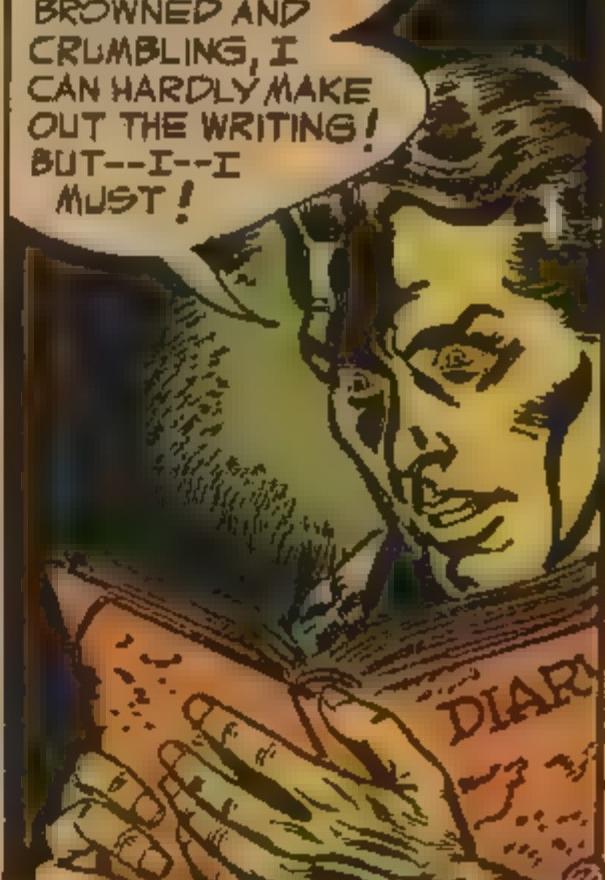
I-I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD!
WHAT CAN I POSSIBLY
HOPE TO FIND INSIDE --
MAYBE A FEW COPIES
OF MY BOOK? ...
STILL, I FEEL
STRANGELY
DRAWN IN!
WHAT CAN
I LOSE?

I GROPED THROUGH THE
MUSTY OLD HOUSE,
BUT DISCOVERED
NOTHING! FINALLY,
I FOUND MYSELF IN
THE ATTIC...

OLD RECORDS,
PAPERS, BOOKS!
I'LL GO THROUGH
THEM, BUT THE HEAT
AND DRYNESS IN
THIS PLACE ARE
SUFFOCATING!

THEN, SUDDENLY, MY HEART LEAPED
AS MY FINGERS CLUTCHED
SOMETHING THAT MIGHT SHED
SOME LIGHT ON THE WRETCHED
MYSTERY...

THE-- THE DIARY OF
RICHARD MILLS! THE
PAGES ARE SO
BROWNED AND
CRUMBLING, I
CAN HARDLY MAKE
OUT THE WRITING!
BUT-- I-- I
MUST!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



AND AS I SCANNED THE BRITTLE PAGES, A STORY UNFOLDED THAT STAGGERED MY IMAGINATION--HOW MILLS, A FRIEND OF BEN FRANKLIN, HAD WORKED FOR YEARS ON A TIME MACHINE...

A TIME MACHINE THAT WILL TRANSPORT YOU INTO THE FUTURE, DID YOU SAY? RICHARD, YOU'RE MAD!

BUT I TELL YOU, IT'S GOT TO WORK, BEN!

"SO BEN THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY, TOO! MAYBE--MAYBE I WAS! WHEN FRANKLIN LEFT, I RESOLVED TO TRY MY MACHINE OUT AT ONCE!"

I'LL SET THE CONTROLS FOR... LET'S SEE... ANY DATE WILL DO... 1952!

"THEN, AS I PULLED THE ACTIVATOR LEVER..."

IT'S WORKING! IT'S WORKING! OH, IF ONLY BEN FRANKLIN WERE HERE TO SEE IT!



"AN INSTANT LATER, I FOUND MYSELF IN THE STRANGE WORLD OF THE FUTURE..."

I DID IT--I'M IN THE YEAR 1952! WHAT QUEER COSTUMES--AND SEE, HORSELESS CARRIAGES! THIS WILL SURELY MAKE MY FAME AND FORTUNE! I MUST PRESS THE REVERSE ACTIVATOR AND RETURN INSTANTLY SO I CAN TELL THEM ALL IT WORKED!

"BUT JUST THEN, AN IDEA OCCURRED TO ME..."

BUT HOW CAN I PROVE I HAVE BEEN HERE?... AH, THAT BOOK! IT WILL BE ENOUGH TO AROUSE THEIR CURIOSITY! THEN I SHALL PUT ON AN ACTUAL DEMONSTRATION FOR THEM!

"I PRESSED THE REVERSE ACTIVATOR, BUT WHEN I RETURNED TO THE YEAR 1780..."

CRASH!
MY TIME MACHINE--IT EXPLODED!

"IT HAD TAKEN ME FIFTEEN YEARS TO BUILD THE MACHINE, AND I COULD NOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF STARTING AGAIN! WHAT WAS I TO DO? I WAS PENNILESS! THE BOOK WAS ABOUT EVENTS IN MY OWN TIME, SO IN DESPERATION, I COPIED IT--AND OFFERED IT TO A PUBLISHER AS MY OWN WORK!... UNLUCKILY, IT WAS A RANK FAILURE!"





STRANGE ADVENTURES



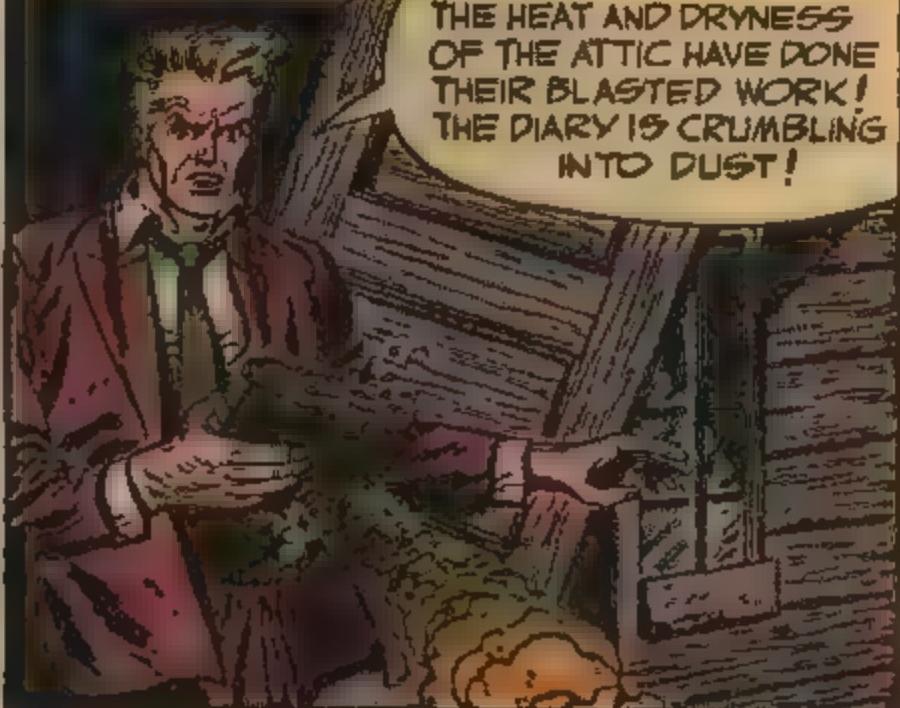
MY JOY WAS UNBOUNDED AND CLUTCHING THE DIARY, I FLED FROM THE SUFFOCATING ATMOSPHERE OF THE ATTIC ...

WAIT'LL THEY SEE THIS DIARY! THIS WILL PROVE WHO'S THE PLAGIARIST!

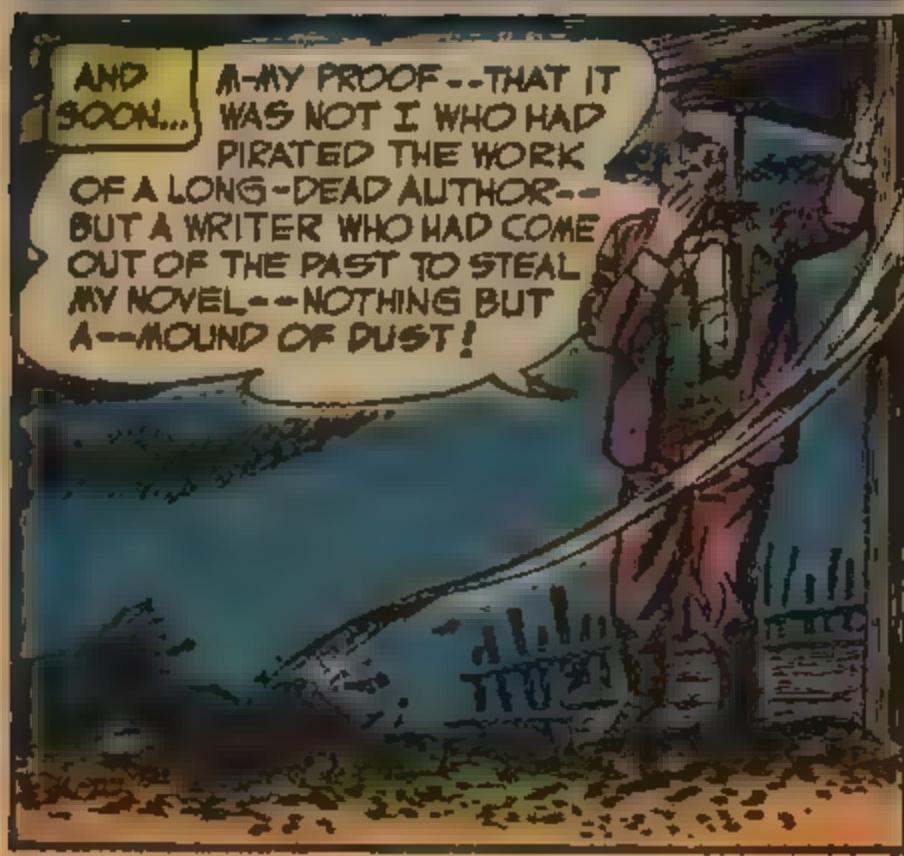


BUT THE MOMENT I STEPPED OUTSIDE...

THE HEAT AND DRYNESS OF THE ATTIC HAVE DONE THEIR BLASTED WORK! THE DIARY IS CRUMBLING INTO DUST!



AND SOON... MY PROOF -- THAT IT WAS NOT I WHO HAD PIRATED THE WORK OF A LONG-DEAD AUTHOR -- BUT A WRITER WHO HAD COME OUT OF THE PAST TO STEAL MY NOVEL -- NOTHING BUT A MOUND OF DUST!



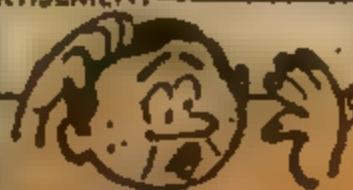
YOU ASK ME NOW WHY I HAVE NOT TOLD THIS STORY TO ANYONE? WHAT WOULD BE THE USE? NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME! ... DO YOU?



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I wish he'd get interested in a girl and start using Wildroot Cream-Oil!"

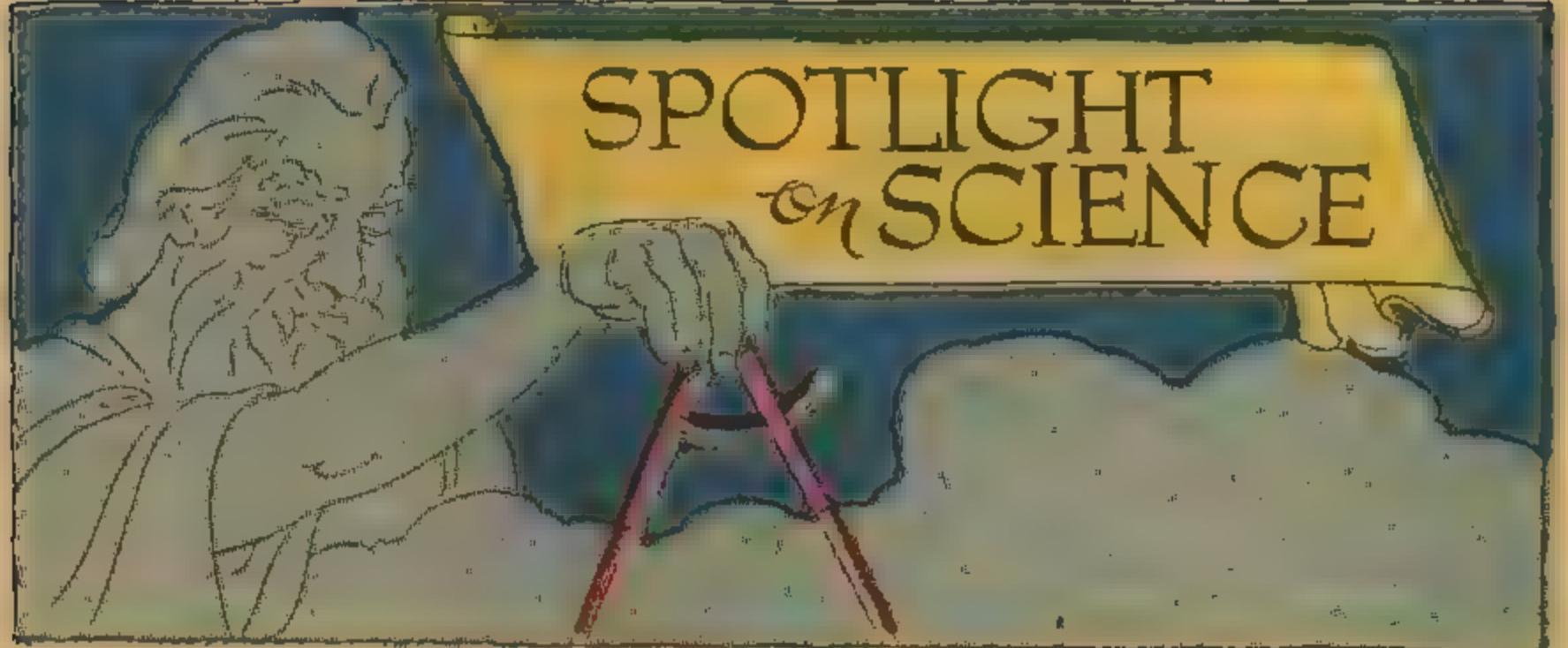


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DON'T PLUNK the Finger-Nail Test! Don't let dry, unruly hair and loose, ugly dandruff spoilt your looks! Keep your hair neat and natural all day long with Wildroot Cream-Oil.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE





SPOTLIGHT on SCIENCE

ATOM COUNT

WHEN men of science talk about atoms they reel off sets of figures that put our national debt to shame! As a typical example, consider the number of atoms in a cubic centimeter of helium gas—2,560,000,000,000,000,000,000—that comes out as two sextillion, five hundred and sixty quintillion.

An impressive figure, but just what does it mean? Well, if the atoms of helium gas in a little glass pellet the size of a pea were liberated at the rate of one thousand per second, about two thousand million years would elapse before the last atom escaped.

Unless you're already lost in this maze of figures, you must be curious to know how scientists figure this atom count. Actually, the process is quite simple, the principle involved being not much different from that used by a farmer who counts his sheep in a large flock. The method consists in making a small hole, accurately measured, in a screen against which so-called "Alpha particles" (helium atoms), are bombarded from a measured surface of radium.

The particles fly impartially in all directions, so those that go through the hole—one by one, like sheep—are a calculable fraction of the whole number given off in a given time.

IS THE EARTH ROUND?

It is curious that the roundness of the earth is a generally accepted fact, yet few persons are able to offer a convincing proof that our planet is nearly spherical. Indeed, any assertion of the earth's roundness apparently defies our sense of sight.

If what we see we interpret correctly, we must conclude that the earth is indeed round. Five of the most frequently offered proofs follow:

(1) In recent years rocket-borne cameras and manned balloon ascensions have supplied us with photographs made at very high altitudes. They show extended stretches of horizon which unmistakably reveal the curvature of the earth's surface.

(2) To the observant seacoast resident it is common knowledge that departing ships not only shrink in size but disappear hull first, masts last, and no amount of optical aid will bring back the parts that have gone over the curve of the earth and down the other side. Moreover, it makes no difference in what direction or from what point the ship steams. The result is the same only because the earth's surface is curved.

(3) The earth can be circumnavigated by air in any compass direction. It must therefore be a closed surface. (This is

only a limited proof, for a banana is also a closed surface, but hardly round!)

(4) During the period of a lunar eclipse, the earth casts a shadow upon the moon which is invariably circular. (While it is true that certain projections of a cone, cylinder, or a football are also circular, only a nearly spherical volume will have a cross-section that is round under all circumstances.)

(5) Travelers going north or south will notice a progressive shift in the positions of the stars in his sky which is in proportion to the length of his journey. Thus the positions of the distant stars in the sky of an observer in Argentina would plainly be as much different from the positions of the same stars for a northern observer as their respective vertical directions. On a round earth the difference would be in proportion to their separation; on a flat earth it would not.

COLOR BLINDNESS

John Dalton, the originator of the atomic theory in chemistry, was once astonished to discover that there existed in the eyes of most people a difference in color between the red coats of soldiers and the green grass on which the soldiers were marching. To Dalton's eyes there was no difference in color at all, for until then the phenomenon of color blindness had not been recognized. Thus in recognition of its discoverer, the condition of color blindness is even today sometimes referred to as Daltonism.

Despite its overdue discovery, color blindness is not a rare condition in human beings. Extensive studies in Europe have shown its average presence in four males out of every one hundred, and in one female in every two hundred. That color blindness is inherited, is shown by the fact that it is not uniformly distributed throughout the popu-

lation, but prevails in certain family groups.

Strangely enough, the manner of its inheritance is peculiar. A color-blind man does not have color-blind sons. Nor usually do his daughters suffer from this defect. However, the daughters are "carriers" of color blindness and their sons are likely to be color blind. Sometimes there may be two successive generations of such female carriers, without evidence showing this defect.

VISIBLE STARS

With average eyesight and favorable seeing conditions, the human eye can just see the light of a single candle about six miles away. If the light is dimmed or moved to a greater distance than six miles, a "fainter" light cannot be seen, but rather no light at all.

If the light from a single candle six miles away is considered as the unit of brightness, then the faintest stars that we can see with our unaided eyes likewise may be considered to have a brightness of exactly one unit. On this scale the brightest star we can see, Sirius, has a brightness 1080 candles would have at a distance of six miles. Canopus, the second brightest star, has 550 units; then follows Vega with 220, Capella 205, Arcturus 200, Alpha Centauri and Procyon 180 each, and so on.

There are only about 20 stars in the whole sky which shine with 100 units of brightness or more. Between 100 and 10 units there are an additional 200 stars, and 4500 more stars between 10 and 1 units.

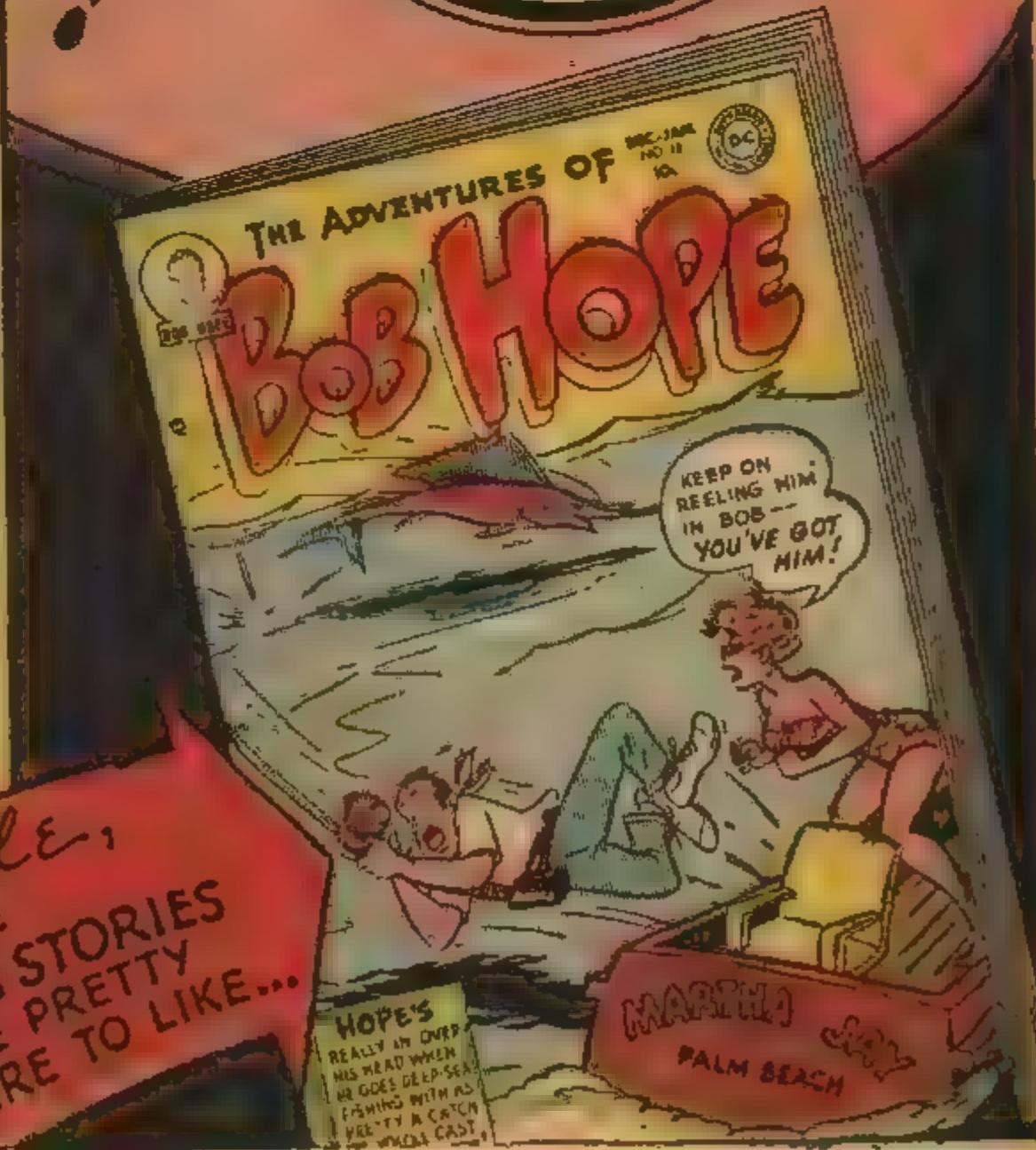
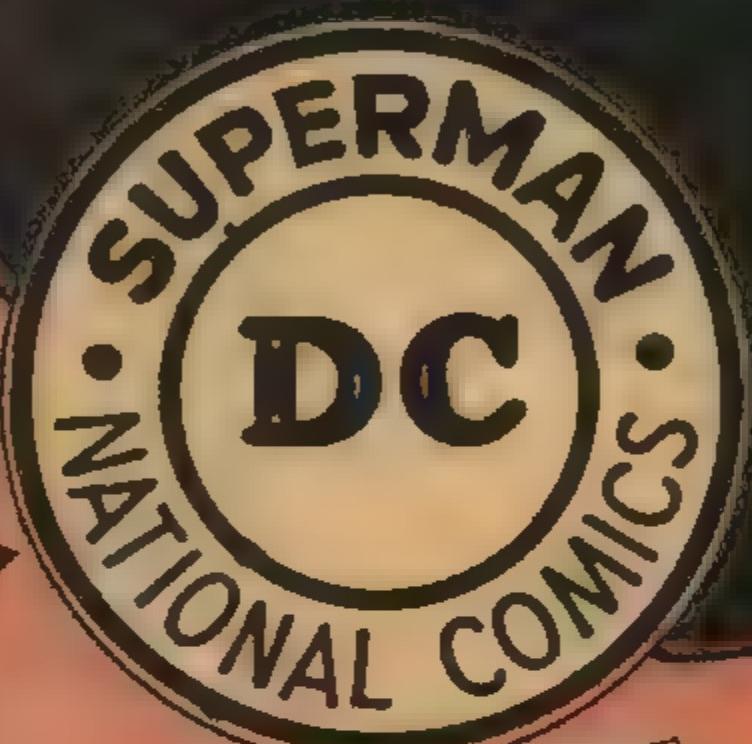
All together there are only 4720 stars to be seen with our unaided eyes. When we consider that not more than half of this number are above the horizon at any one moment, and that several of these are likely to be hidden by mists or clouds, it is likely that the most stars anyone can see at any one moment is 2000.

WOW! MORE THAN EVER!

THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL
ON THE COVER OF
ANY COMICS
MAGAZINE IS YOUR
GUARANTEE OF THE
BEST IN COMICS
READING

YES, WITH SO
MANY DIFFERENT
TITLES ON THE
NEWSSTANDS,
SOMETIMES IT'S
HARD TO CHOOSE
A MAGAZINE
YOU'RE SURE TO
LIKE, BUT PEOPLE
WHO KNOW COMICS
BEST KNOW THAT
THE D-C SYMBOL
ALWAYS MEANS
A GOOD
MAGAZINE!

For Example,
IF YOU LIKE
HUMOROUS STORIES
YOU'RE PRETTY
SURE TO LIKE...





The LAST HUMANS!

IT'S A HUMAN
ALL RIGHT--
TWO OF THEM!
SHOOT THEM
DOWN!

THE HUNTING SEASON WAS ON AGAIN--AND THE LAST BAND OF HUMAN SURVIVORS WERE IN A PANIC! FOR UNLESS THE ONCE-PROUD MASTERS OF EARTH COULD ESCAPE THE TERRIBLE WEAPONS OF THEIR ALIEN CONQUERS, THE HUMAN RACE WOULD BECOME EXTINCT!

IN THE 203rd YEAR OF THE GLEBE CONQUEST OF EARTH, A RADIO PROCLAMATION IS ISSUED...

THE ANNUAL HUMAN-HUNT WILL BE LIMITED TO TWO WEEKS THIS YEAR! THE HUMANS--WHO HAVE PROVIDED US WITH SUCH FINE SPORT IN THE PAST--ARE NOW IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION...

THEREFORE, THE GLEBE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED TO PLACE A TIME-LIMIT ON THE HUNT! IT BEGINS TOMORROW...

I'VE GOT A WEEK OFF TO HUNT HUMANS, LOKRI!

LUCKY YOU!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



ON A WESTERN GLEBE OUTPOST AND SUPPLY CENTER...

ONLY HUMANS
WOULD STEAL A RADIO,
CAPTAIN! THEY MUST HAVE
BROKEN IN HERE!

CHECK TO SEE
WHAT ELSE IS
MISSING --

I'M GOING TO WIPE
OUT THE LITTLE BAND
IN OUR SECTOR--IF
IT'S THE LAST THING
I DO!

BEGINNING AT DAWN,
WE CAN HUNT THEM
LEGALLY, CAPTAIN!



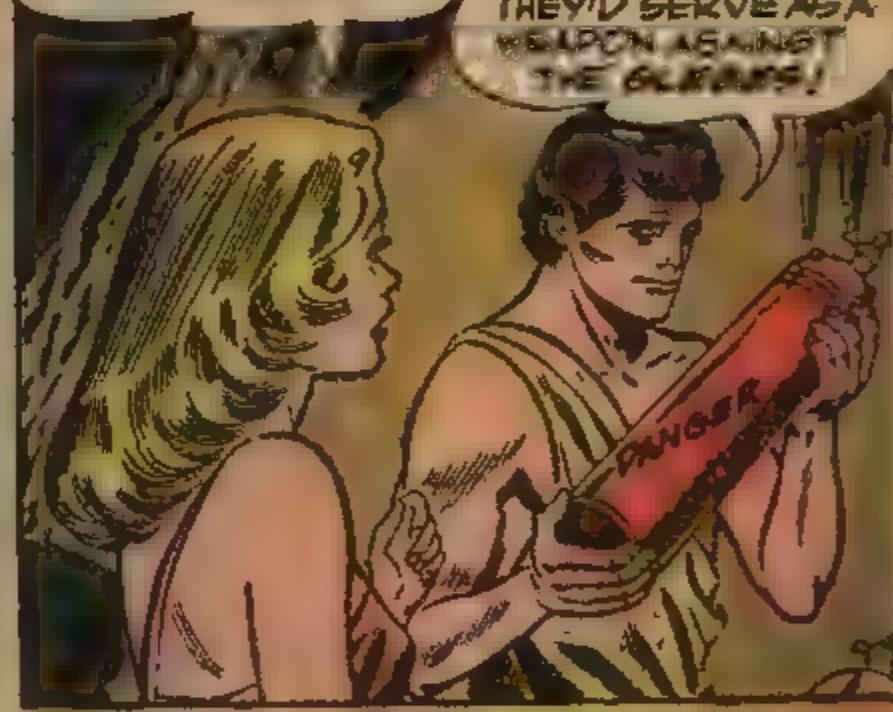
MEANWHILE ... HIGH IN A MOUNTAIN CAVE
ABOVE THE OUTPOST...

TRENT! YOU
HAVE A RADIO!

YES--DR. JAIMS
WILL BE HERE IN A
MOMENT, ALIS! WE'LL
SET IT UP!

WHAT ARE THOSE--
MARKED DANGER?

I DON'T KNOW... I
TOOK THEM, HOPING
THEY'D SERVE AS A
WEAPON AGAINST
THE GLUBERS!



BOLDLY, THE YOUNG MAN UNSCREWS THE
CYLINDER'S NOZZLE ...

SNIFF! IT'S
OXYGEN!
JUST PURE
OXYGEN!

OH! TOO
BAD, TRENT--
BUT YOU DID
TRY!

AS THE ELDERLY LEADER OF THE TINY
CLUSTER OF EARTHLINGS ARRIVES IN
THE CAVE ...

... HUMAN HUNT
OFFICIALLY OPENS
TOMORROW!

WE'RE NOT SAFE
HERE! WE'LL HAVE
TO FLEE -- DEEPER
INTO THE MOUNTAINS!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



WHY MUST WE ALWAYS
RUN AWAY, DR. JAIMS?
LET'S STAND AND
FIGHT THIS TIME!

MY BOY, YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
SAVING!

GLEBES CAN'T BE HARMED!
OUR ANCESTORS TRIED BUL-
LETS -- RADIATION, ATOM BOMBS --
EVERYTHING FAILED! GLEBES
AREN'T MADE THE WAY WE ARE...

YOU MEAN
GLEBE
LIFE IS
DIFER-
ENT --
CHEMICALLY
?

YES, THE BASIS OF OUR LIFE
IS CARBON -- IN GLEBES IT
IS METAL! THEY ARE
INVULNERABLE -- ALMOST
IMMORTAL!

METAL?
I
WONDER--?

AT THAT MOMENT... OUTSIDE THE CAVE...

WE'VE FOUND THEIR
LAIR, CAPTAIN! LOOK
AT THE TRACKS!

STAND BY!
I'LL FLUSH
THEM OUT!

GLEBE
SOLDIERS!

WE'RE OPENING THE HUNT
A FEW HOURS EARLY! RUN,
YOU HUMANS!

AS THE TERRIFIED BAND LUNGES FOR ANY
AVAILABLE COVER...

THESE CYLINDERS I STOLE...
IF I'M RIGHT, IT'LL GIVE US
A CHANCE AGAINST THE
GLEBES -- A FIGHTING
CHANCE!



STRANGE ADVENTURES



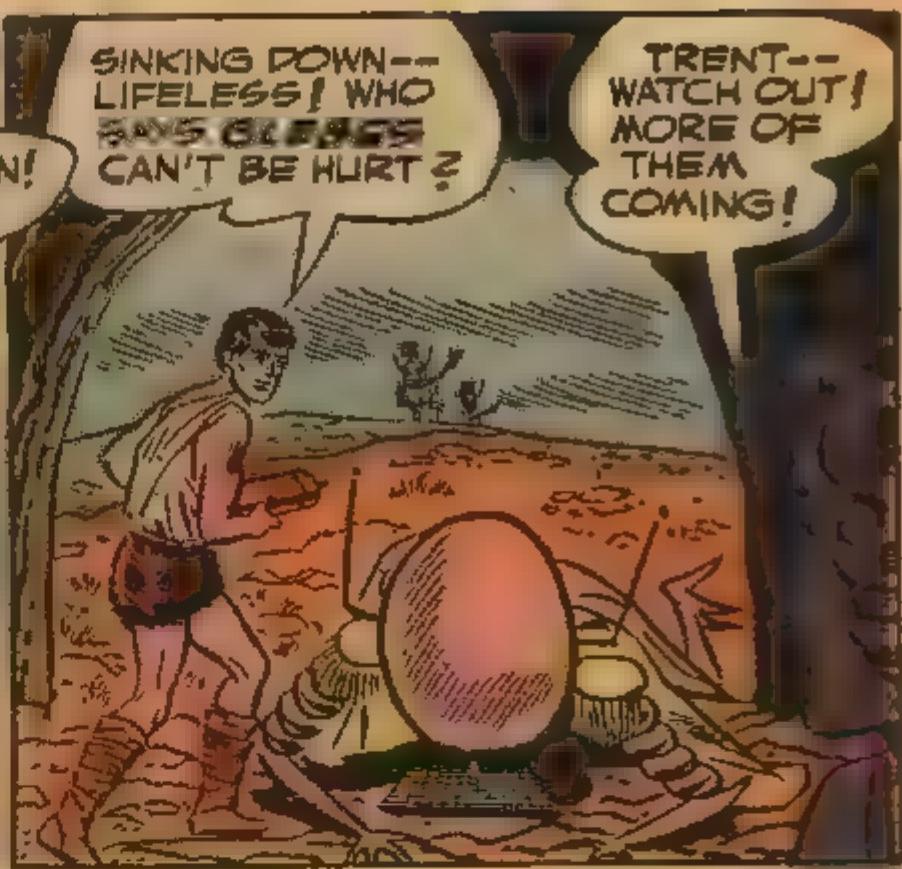
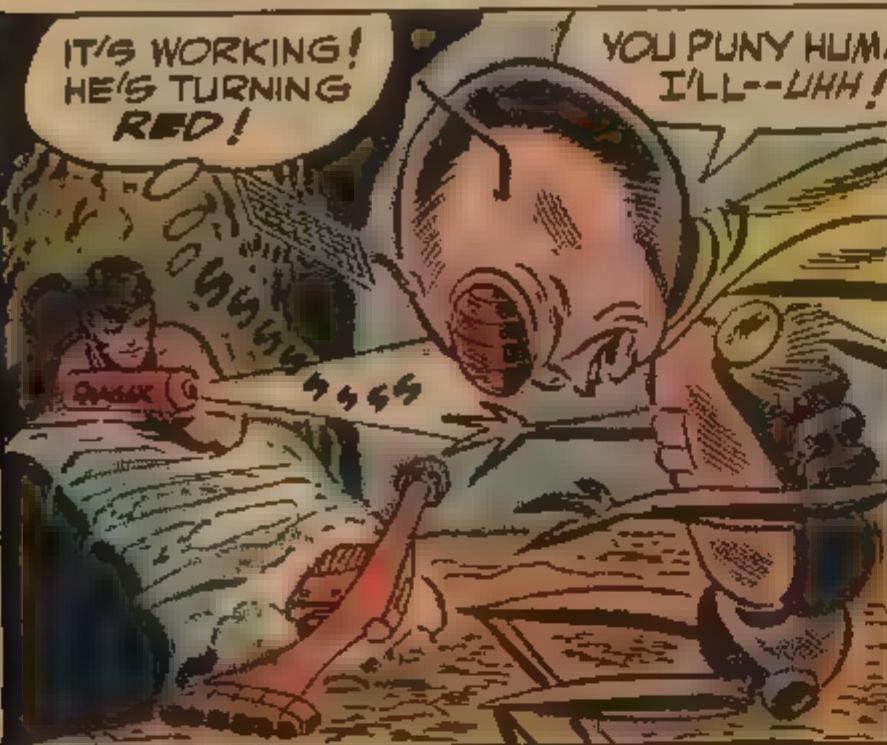
OPENING THE TINY NOZZLE, TRENT DIRECTS AN INVISIBLE JET AT HIS ATTACKER...

IT'S WORKING! HE'S TURNING RED!

YOU PUNY HUMAN! I'LL--UHH!

SINKING DOWN-- LIFELESS! WHO SAYS GLOBES CAN'T BE HURT?

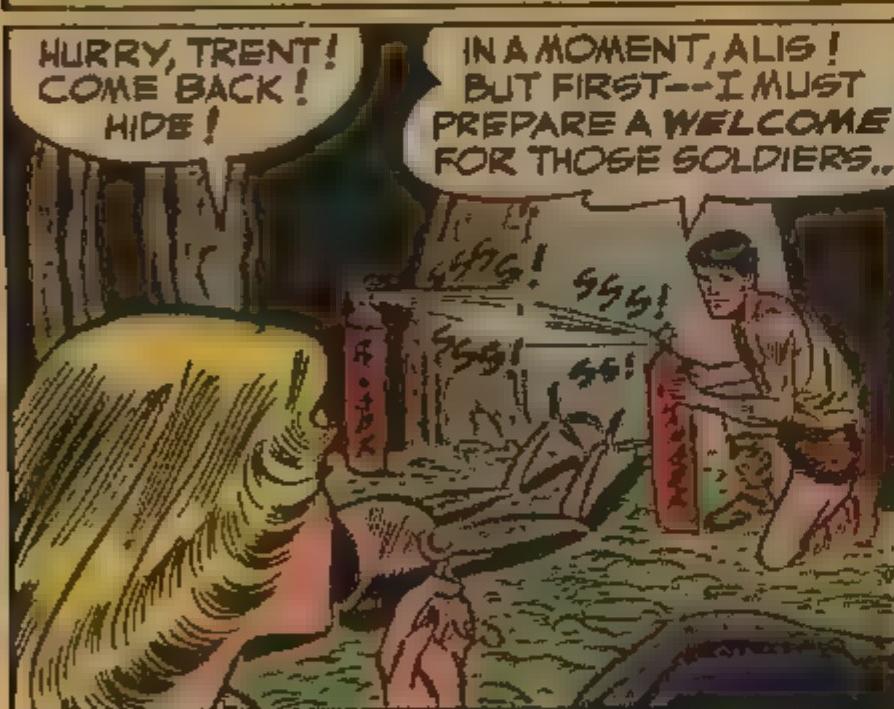
TRENT-- WATCH OUT! MORE OF THEM COMING!



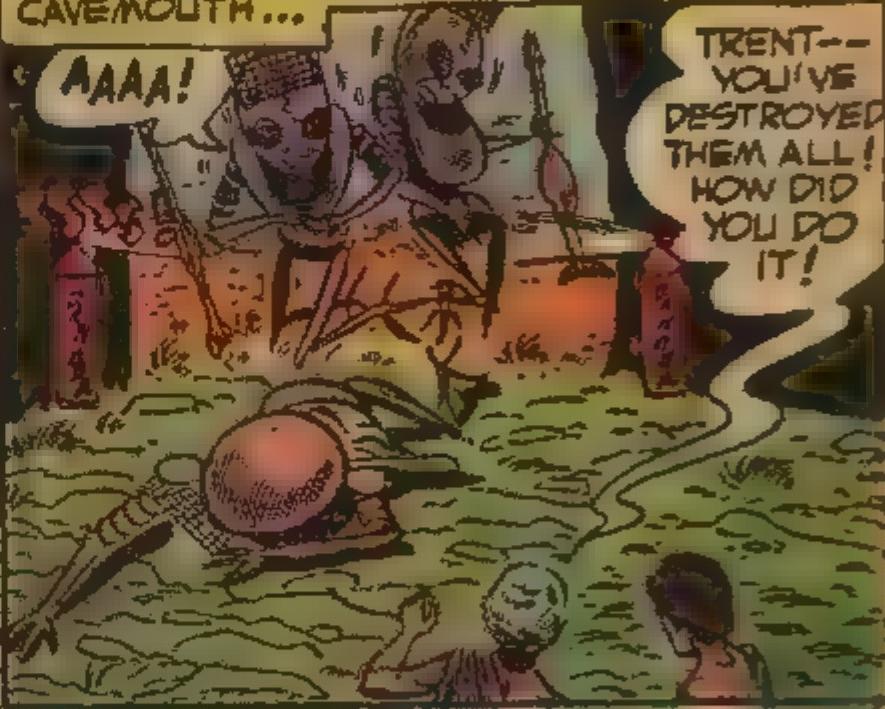
WITH DESPERATE SPEED, THE YOUNG HUMAN SETS A TRAP FOR HIS ON RUSHING FOES...

HURRY, TRENT! COME BACK! HIDE!

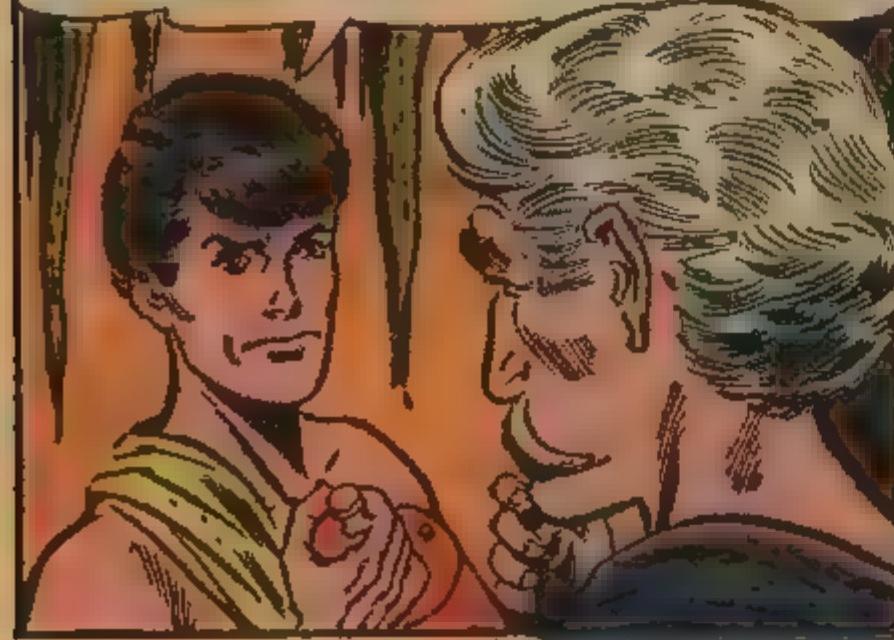
IN A MOMENT, ALIS! BUT FIRST--I MUST PREPARE A WELCOME FOR THOSE SOLDIERS...



AS THE UNSUSPECTING GLOBES CHARGE INTO THE OXYGEN-JET CROSSFIRE AT THE CAVE MOUTH...

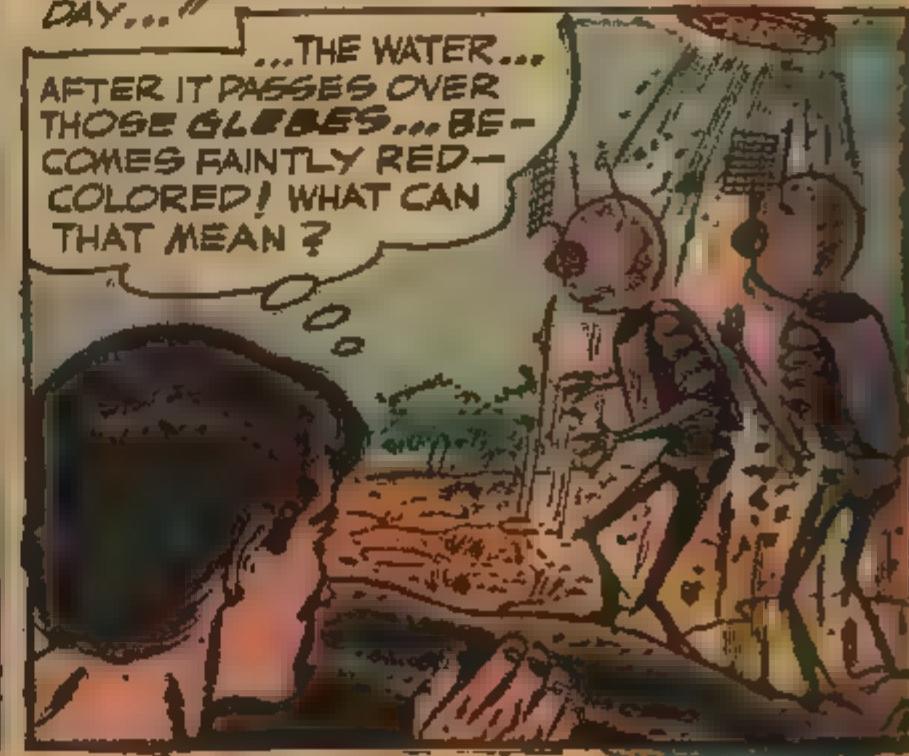


I GOT THE IDEA WHEN YOU SAID THEIR LIFE-BASIS WAS METAL, DR. JAIMS! METAL IS STRONG--BUT IN MOST CASES IT RUSTS! I COMBINED THAT CLUE WITH SOMETHING I NOTICED THIS MORNING...



"DOWN AT THE POST, I WATCHED THE GLOBE SOLDIERS BATHING--AS THEY DO EVERY DAY..."

..THE WATER... AFTER IT PASSES OVER THOSE GLOBES... BECOMES FAINTLY RED-COLORED! WHAT CAN THAT MEAN?



STRANGE ADVENTURES

"SUDDENLY I REALIZED THE ANSWER--THE OXYGEN IN THE ATMOSPHERE! TOO SMALL A PERCENTAGE TO HURT THE GLEBES, BUT ENOUGH TO FORM A FINE FILM OF RUST ON THEM WHICH THEY MUST WASH OFF EVERY DAY!"

FINALLY--THESE CYLINDERS! WHY SHOULD THEY BE MARKED DANGER? THE REASON IS THAT CONCENTRATED OXYGEN IS DEADLY TO GLEBES!

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS-- WE HAVE A WEAPON WITH WHICH TO FIGHT THEM!

TRENT, WE MUST CONTACT OTHER HUMANS! THIS WILL RALLY THEM-- GIVE THEM HOPE!

IF WE CAN SEIZE THE GLEBE RADIO TRANSMITTER DOWN IN THE VALLEY...

GRIMLY, SWIFTLY, THE TINY BAND SETS TO WORK...

BY ATTACHING OXY-CYLINDERS TO THESE GLEBE RIFLE STOCKS, WE'VE GOT WEAPONS WE CAN HANDLE!

SOON AFTER... IN THE FORTRESS-LIKE GLEBE OUTPOST BELOW...

THAT MUST BE THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS! THE HUMAN-HUNT MUST BE OVER!

BUT AS THE HEAVY DOORS ARE THROWN WIDE...

HUMANS--
AAAAA!

TWO FIERY MINUTES LATER... IN THE HEADQUARTERS MESSAGE CENTER...

HUMANS EVERYWHERE -- LISTEN! THIS IS TRENT--IN GLEBE OUTPOST 17! WE WON CONTROL OF IT BY DESTROYING THE GLEBE GARRISON! JOIN US! COME HERE--AS FAST AS YOU CAN!





STRANGE ADVENTURES



IN CAVES AND WILDERNESS HUTS, WHERE-EVER HUMANS HAVE MANAGED TO SEIZE OR BUILD A RADIO-RECEIVER...

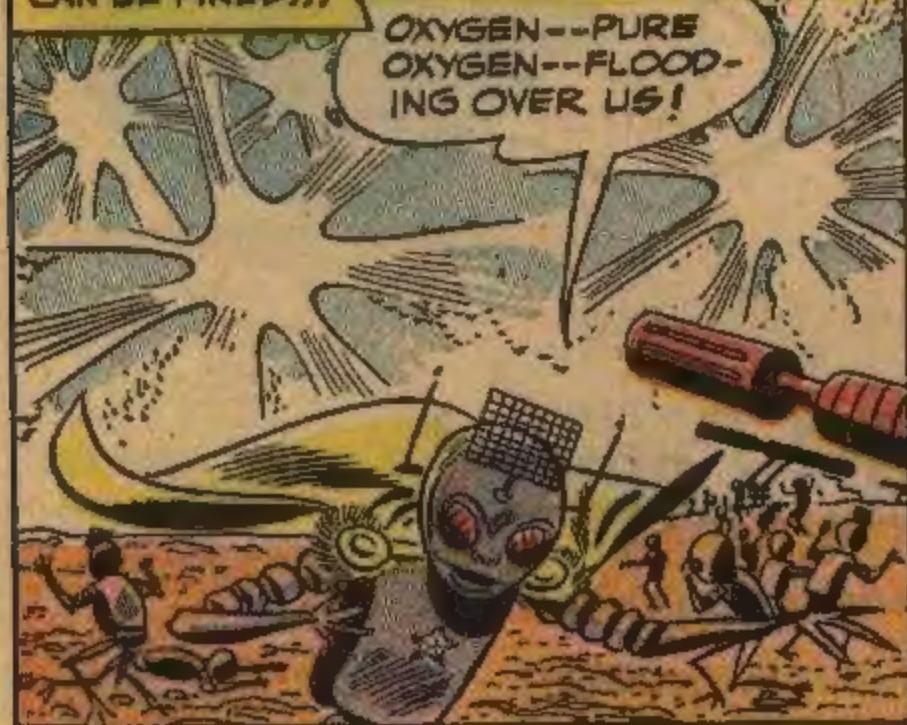


WITHIN 48 HOURS, A GREAT GLEBEE ARMY DESCENDS ON THE TINY HUMAN-HELD REDOUBT...

RADIATION GUNS! LEVEL THE ENTIRE OUTPOST!



BUT SUDDENLY--BEFORE THE LETHAL RAYS CAN BE FIRED...



BUILDING OXYGEN BOMBS TO BE FIRED FROM THIS OUTPOST CANNON WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS, TRENT!



WE'VE BEATEN THEIR ARMY! IT'S A ROUT!

THE GLEBES WILL SEND OTHER ARMIES--WE'LL HAVE TO FIND WAYS OF BEATING THEM, TOO--AND WE WILL! WE'LL GROW STRONGER WHILE THEY GROW WEAKER...



--AND ONE OF THESE DAYS, EARTH WILL BELONG TO US AGAIN--ALL OF IT! THAT'S A SOLEMN PLEDGE, ALIS!

I BELIEVE YOU, TRENT! YOU'RE WONDERFUL!



THE END

DRAW ME!



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Amateurs Only! Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit lettering. All drawings must be received by Dec. 31, 1952. None returned. Winners notified.

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Please enter my attached drawing in your December
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Name _____	Age _____
Address _____	Phone _____
City _____	Zone _____ County _____
State _____	Occupation _____



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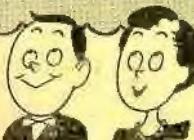
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FOR
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MC AN'S
BULL-MOCS

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BROADER HEEL --
AT THIS PRICE,
IT'S SURE A STEAL!

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HOW THEY
MAKE 'EM FOR
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Here's an all-purpose, year-round favorite — with extra mileage and comfort in that double-thick sole. And the handsome white-stitched storm welt keeps your feet dry in all kinds of weather! There's a pair of BULL-MOCS (Style #7251) waiting for you at your nearest Thom McAn Store . . .

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